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SONIC™

THE HEDGEHOG



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG | 278



PEPPERS & DUST
UNGER

Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures—a world unique & beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Sonic and his friends work to save the world from the forces of evil!



CHARACTER
= SELECT =



SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
THE FASTEST THING ALIVE



ANTOINE
D'COOLETTE
SOLDIER & SWORDSMAN



BIG THE CAT
GENTLE GIANT



CHIP
ANCIENT SPIRIT



???

SONIC™

THE HEDGEHOG

PREVIOUSLY...

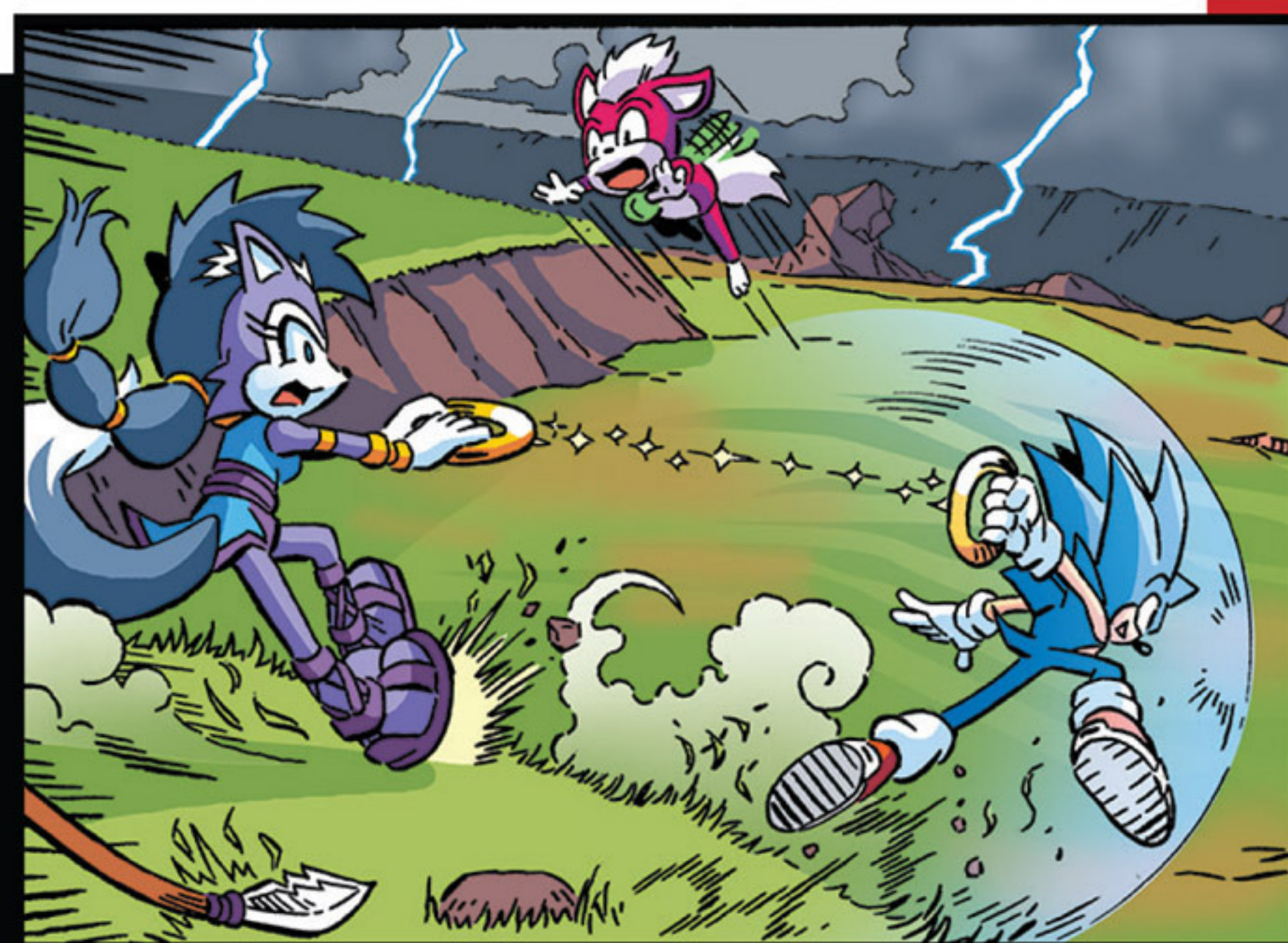
PATHS OF DUTY

Sonic the Hedgehog and his friends, the **Freedom Fighters**, have set out to restore the **Shattered World**! To do that, they will need access to the seven sacred **Gaia Temples**!

Sonic is travelling the globe at super-speed seeking the seven **Gaia Keys** protected by their **Gaia Guardians**!

Meanwhile, **Sally** and **Bunnie** are on the hunt for the final **Chaos Emerald**!

They need all seven emeralds to power the temples—but they've run into serious trouble...



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FACE OF THE ENEMY

Part One: FRIENDS IN NEED

ARID SANDS ZONE...

IT'S JUST A
LITTLE AMBUSH,
GUYS! WE'RE
STILL GOOD!
WE'RE STILL
GOOD!

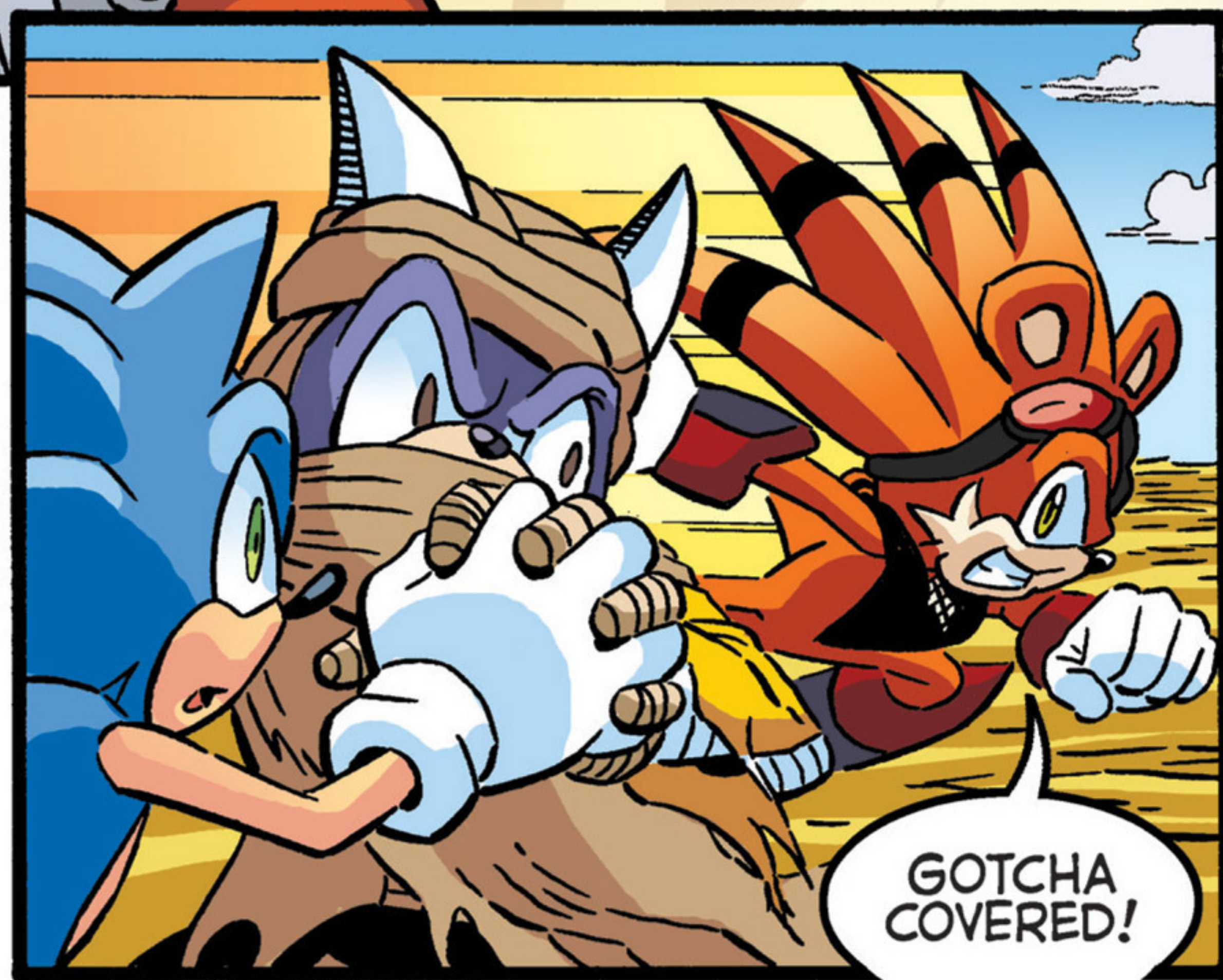
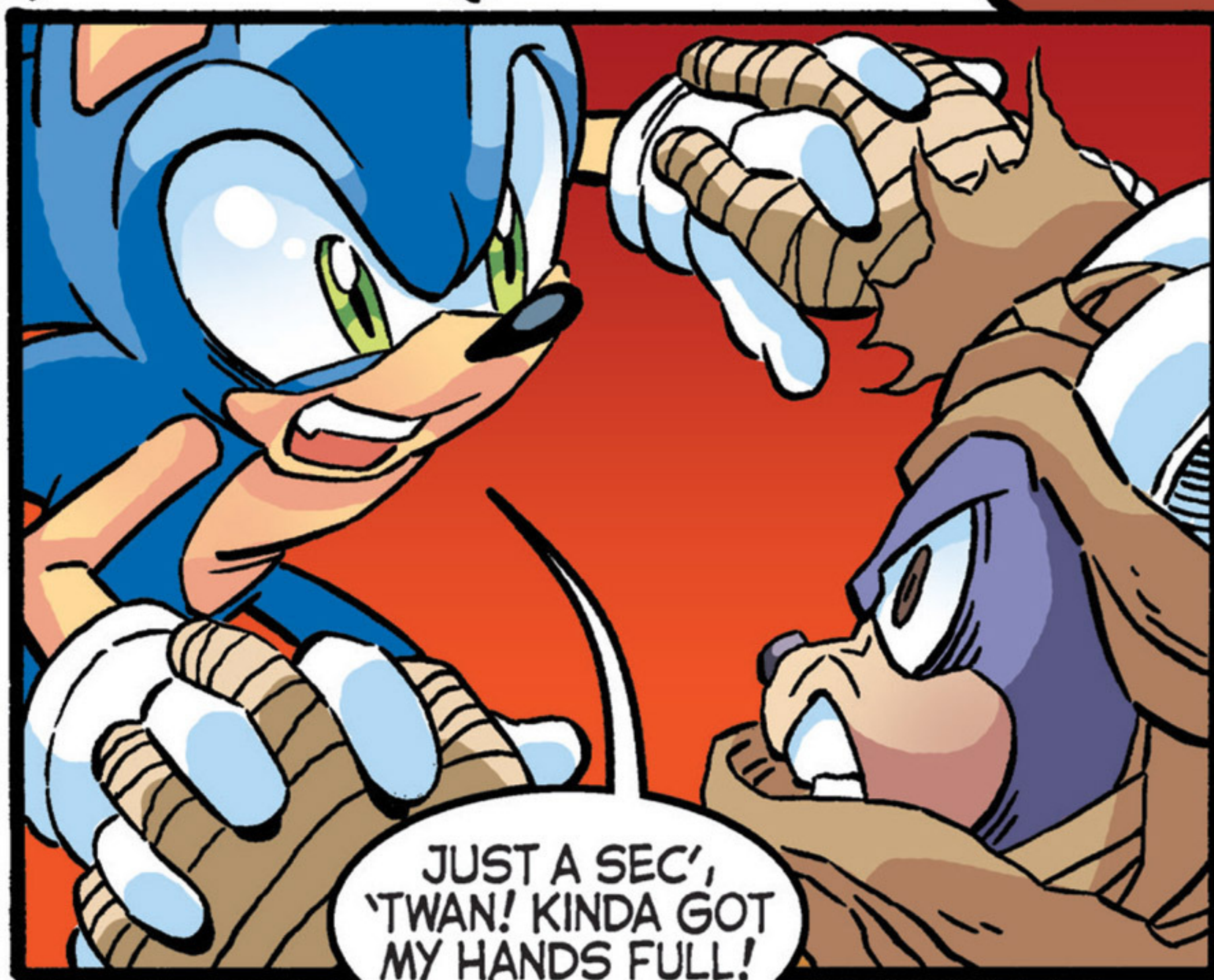
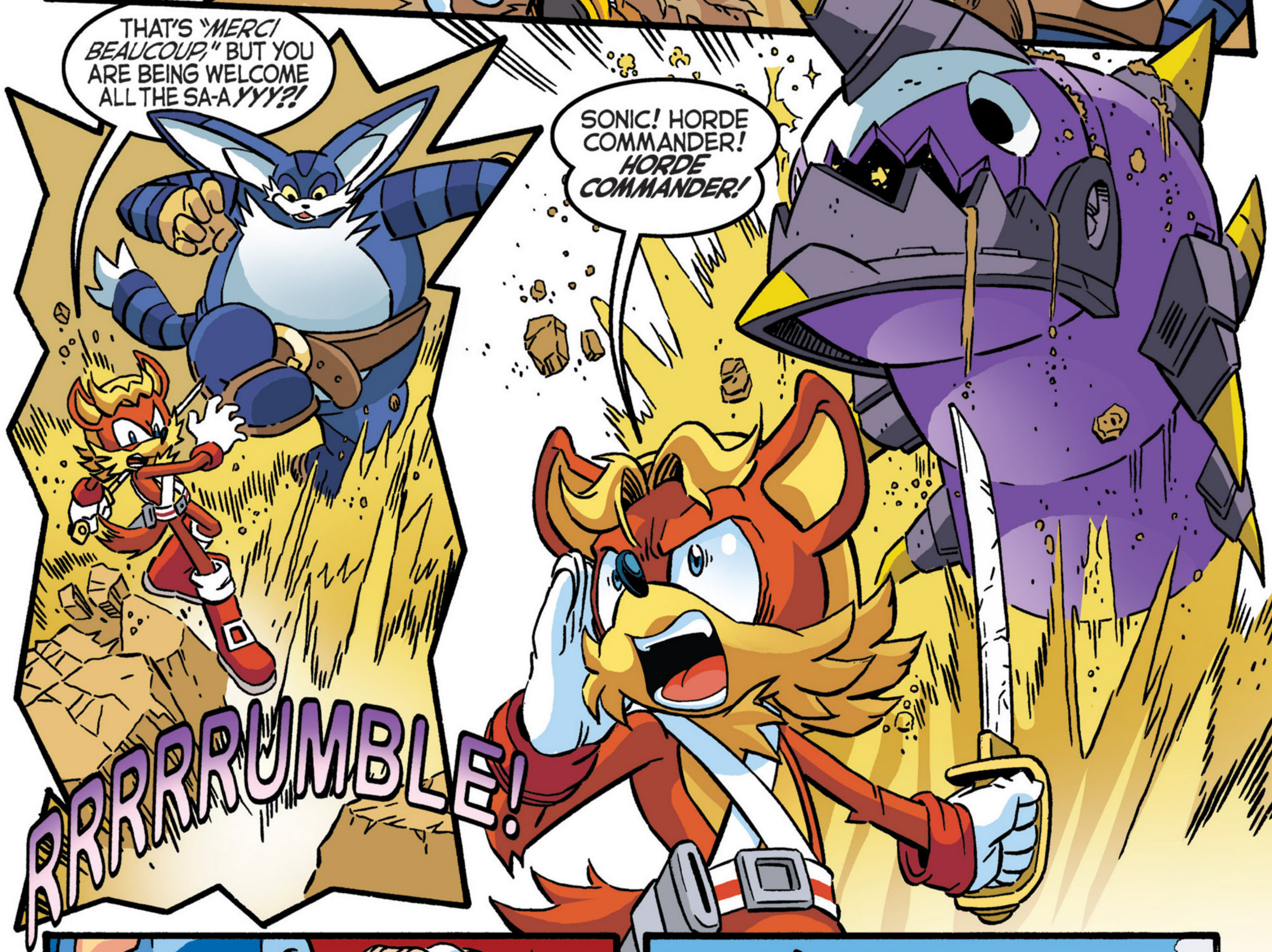
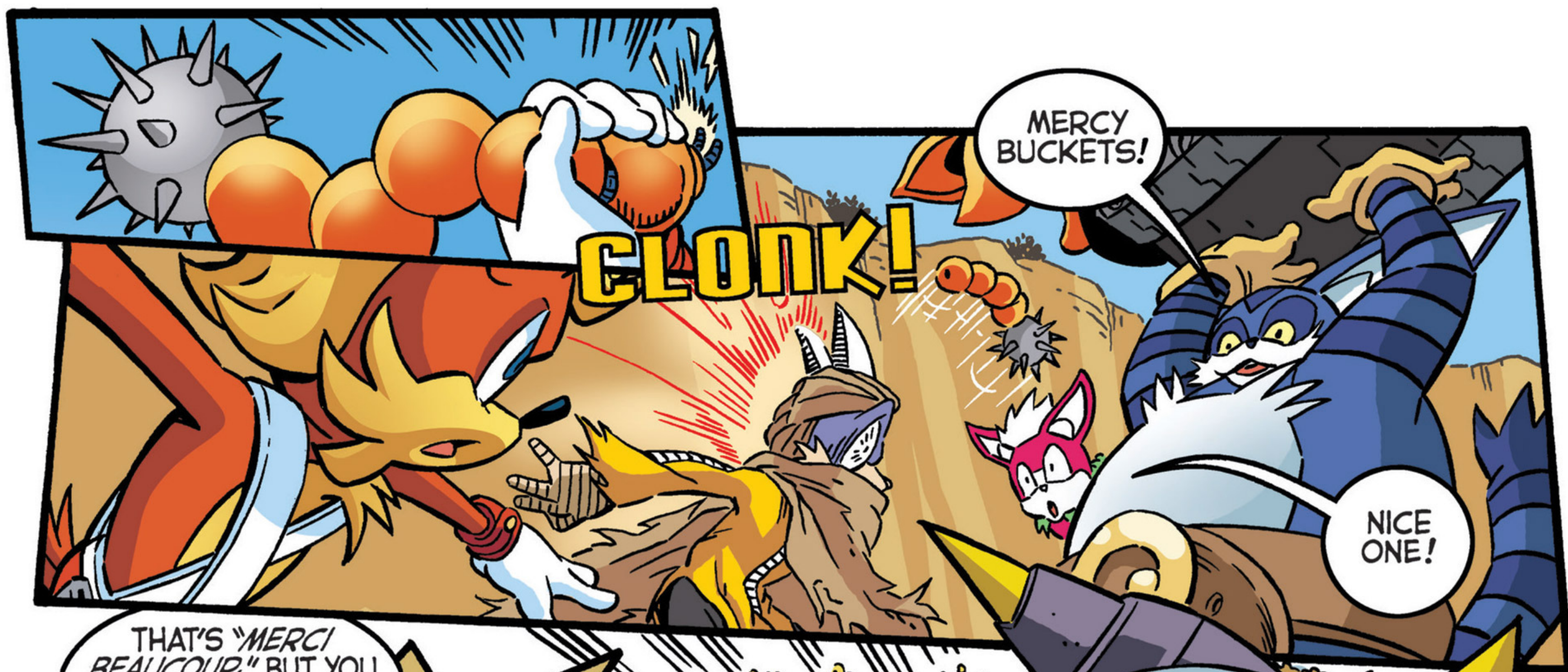
SONIC
QUICKEST
OF ALL

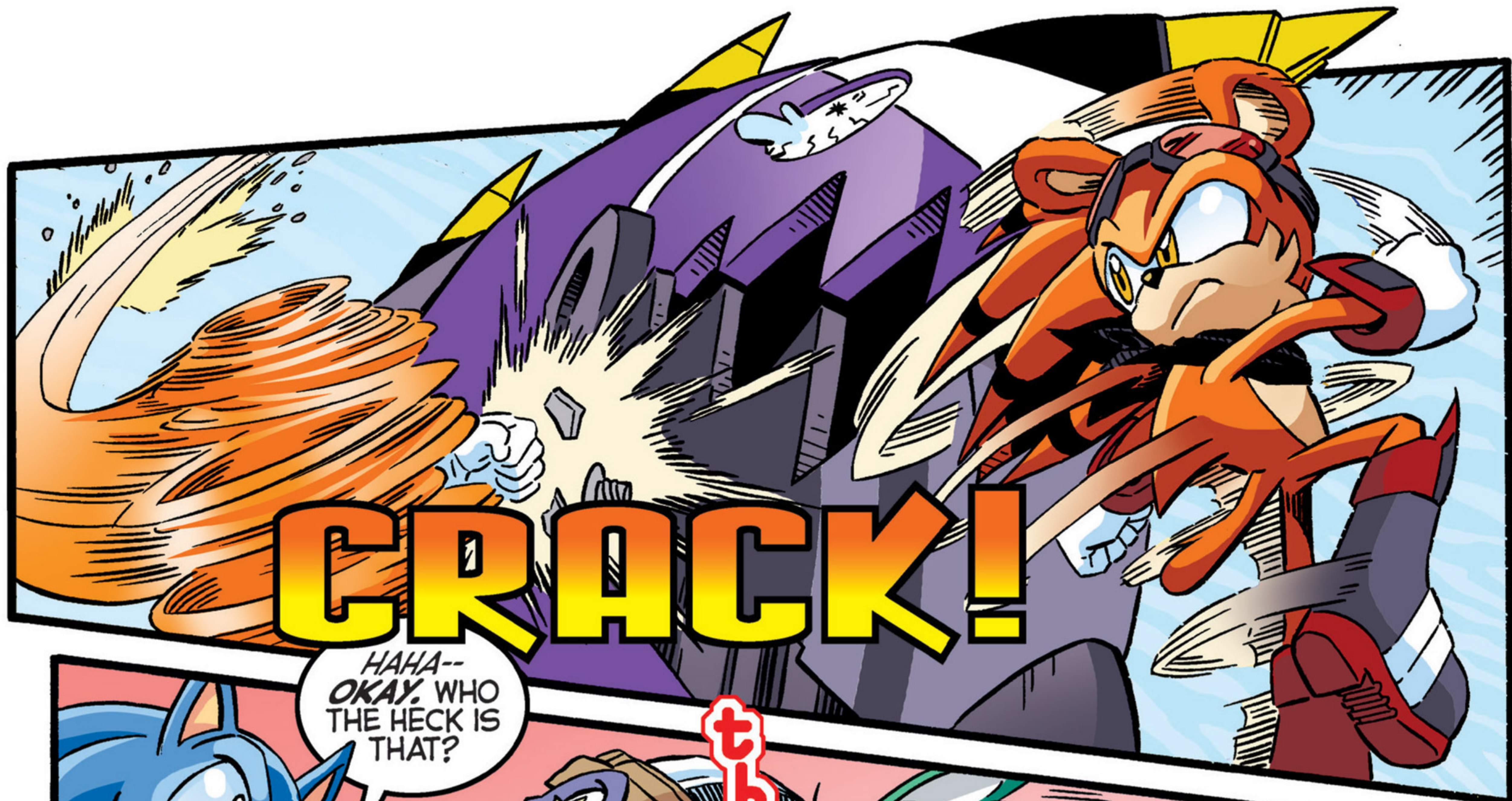
BIG
APTLY
NAMED

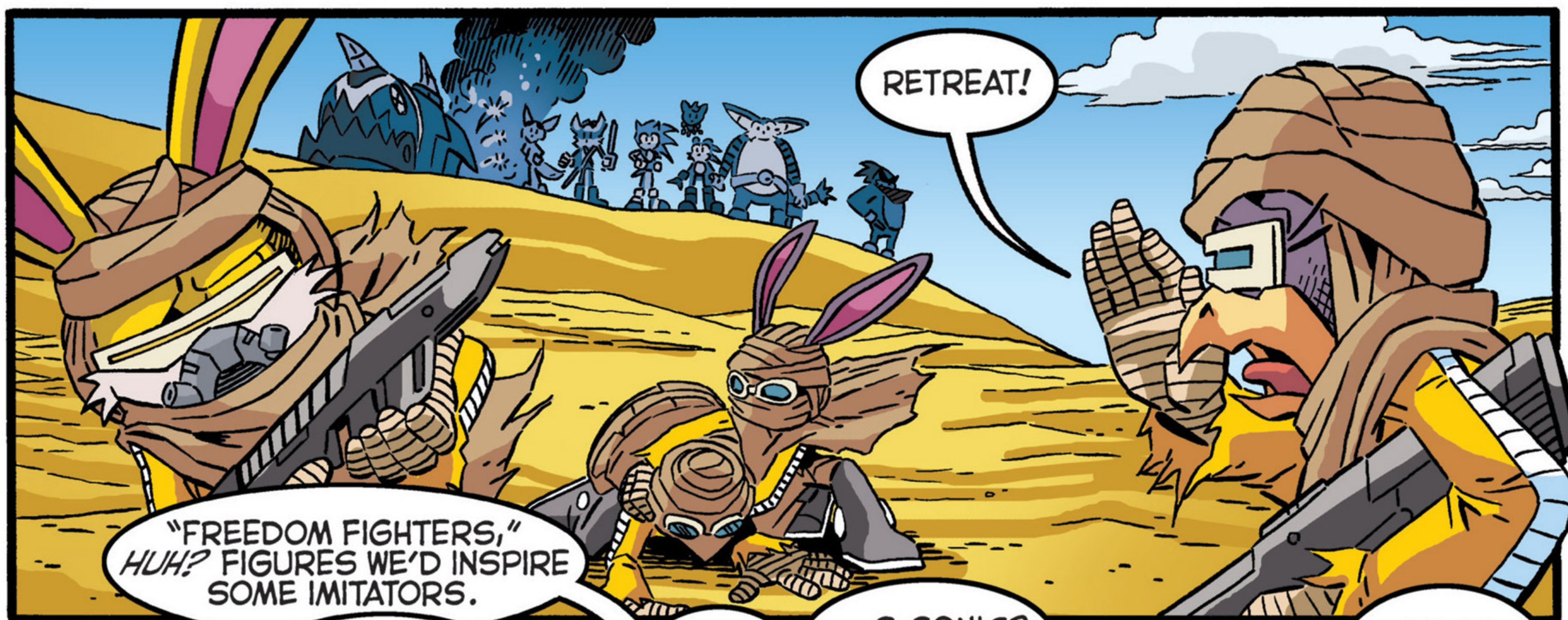
CHIP
BRAVE...ISH

ANTOINE
SWORDSMAN

WRITER: IAN FLYNN • PENCILS: ADAM BRYCE THOMAS • INKS: TERRY AUSTIN
COLORS: GABRIEL CASSATA • LETTERS: JOHN WORKMAN
COVER BY JAMAL PEPPERS, TERRY AUSTIN AND ELAINA UNGER
MANIACAL VARIANT BY RAFA KNIGHT
ASSISTANT EDITOR: JONATHAN H. GRAY • EDITOR: VINCENT LOVALLO
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PUBLISHER: JON GOLDWATER
SPECIAL THANKS TO STACY ARNOLD-STRYDER, SANDRA JO AND
MAI KIYOTAKI AT SEGA LICENSING







"FREEDOM FIGHTERS,"
HUH? FIGURES WE'D INSPIRE
SOME IMITATORS.

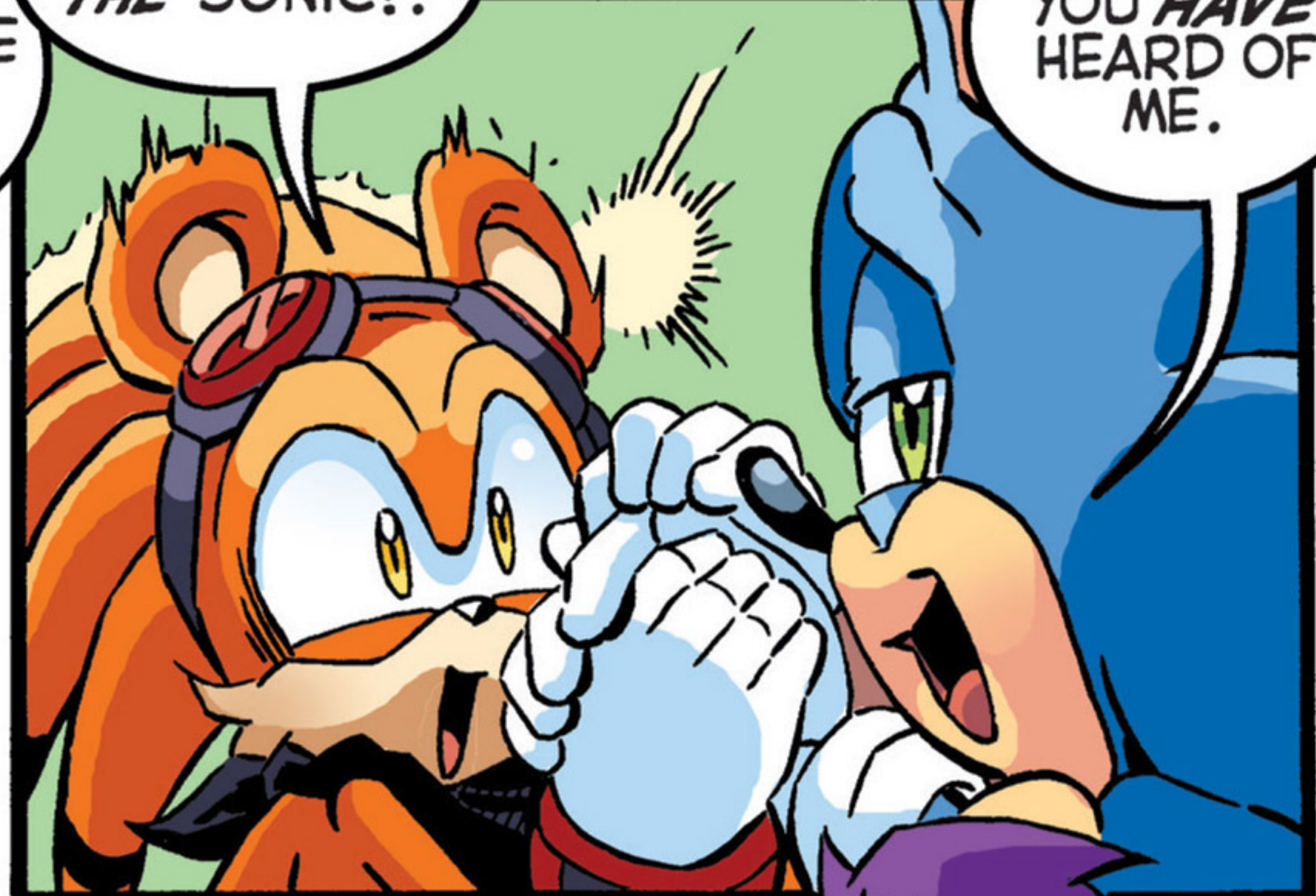
RETREAT!



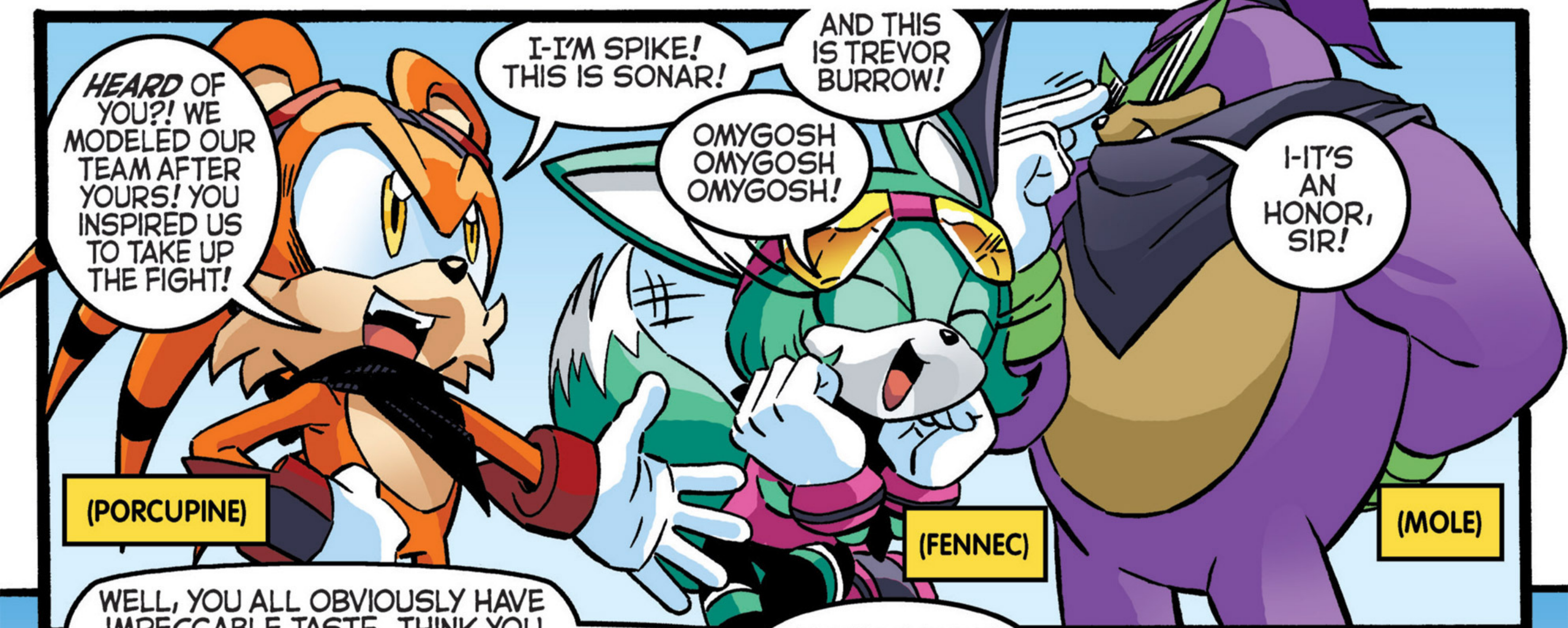
"IMITATORS"?
PRETTY BIG TALK
THERE, MISTER
...?

SONIC.
SONIC THE
HEDGE-
HOG.

...S-SONIC?
THE SONIC?!



OH, SO
YOU *HAVE*
HEARD OF
ME.



HEARD
OF
YOU?! WE
MODELED OUR
TEAM AFTER
YOURS! YOU
INSPIRED US
TO TAKE UP
THE FIGHT!

I-I'M SPIKE!
THIS IS SONAR!

AND THIS
IS TREVOR
BURROW!

OMYGOSH
OMYGOSH
OMYGOSH!

I-IT'S
AN
HONOR,
SIR!

(PORCUPINE)

(FENNEC)

(MOLE)

WELL, YOU ALL OBVIOUSLY HAVE
IMPECCABLE TASTE. THINK YOU
CAN HELP US OUT ON OUR
MISSION?

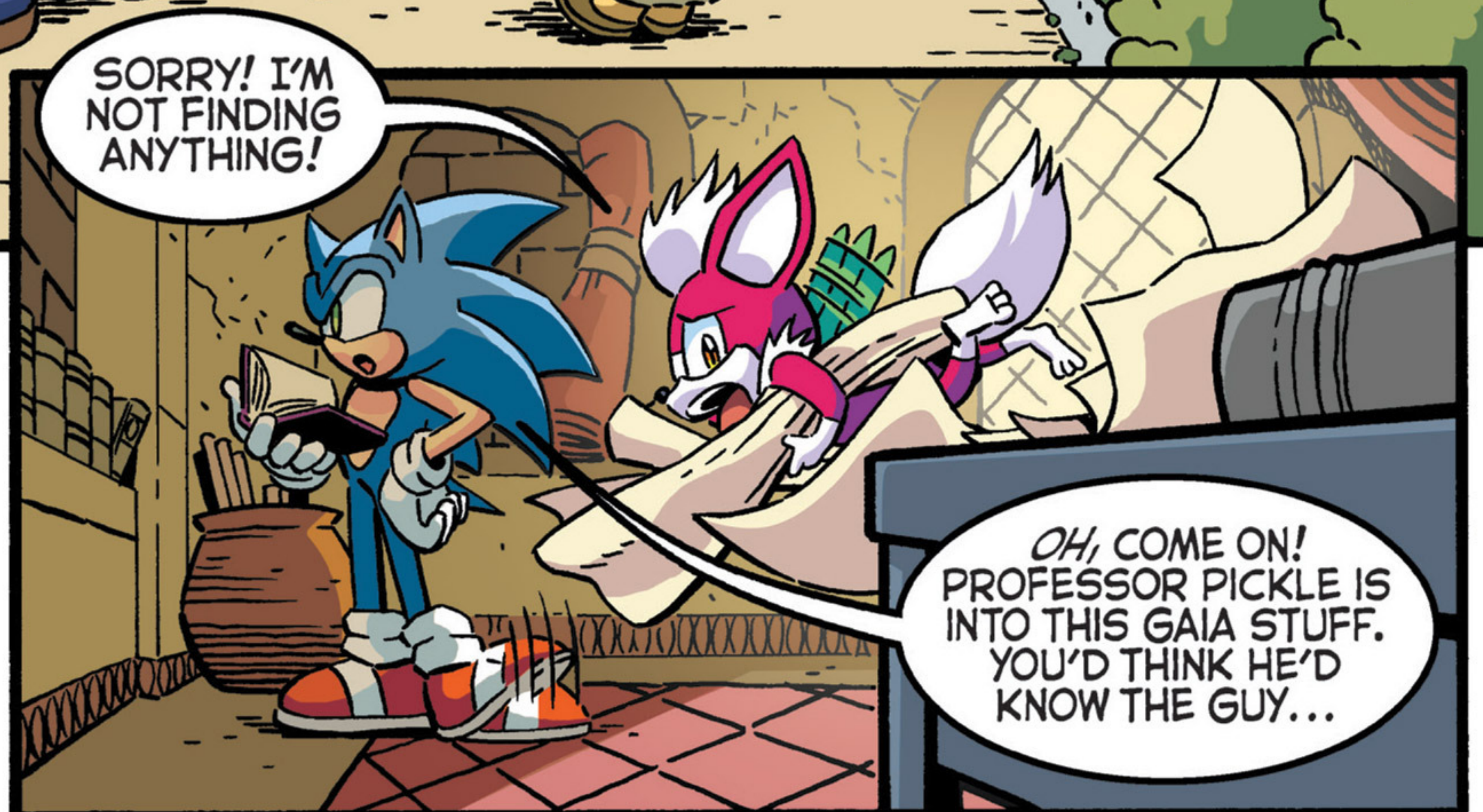
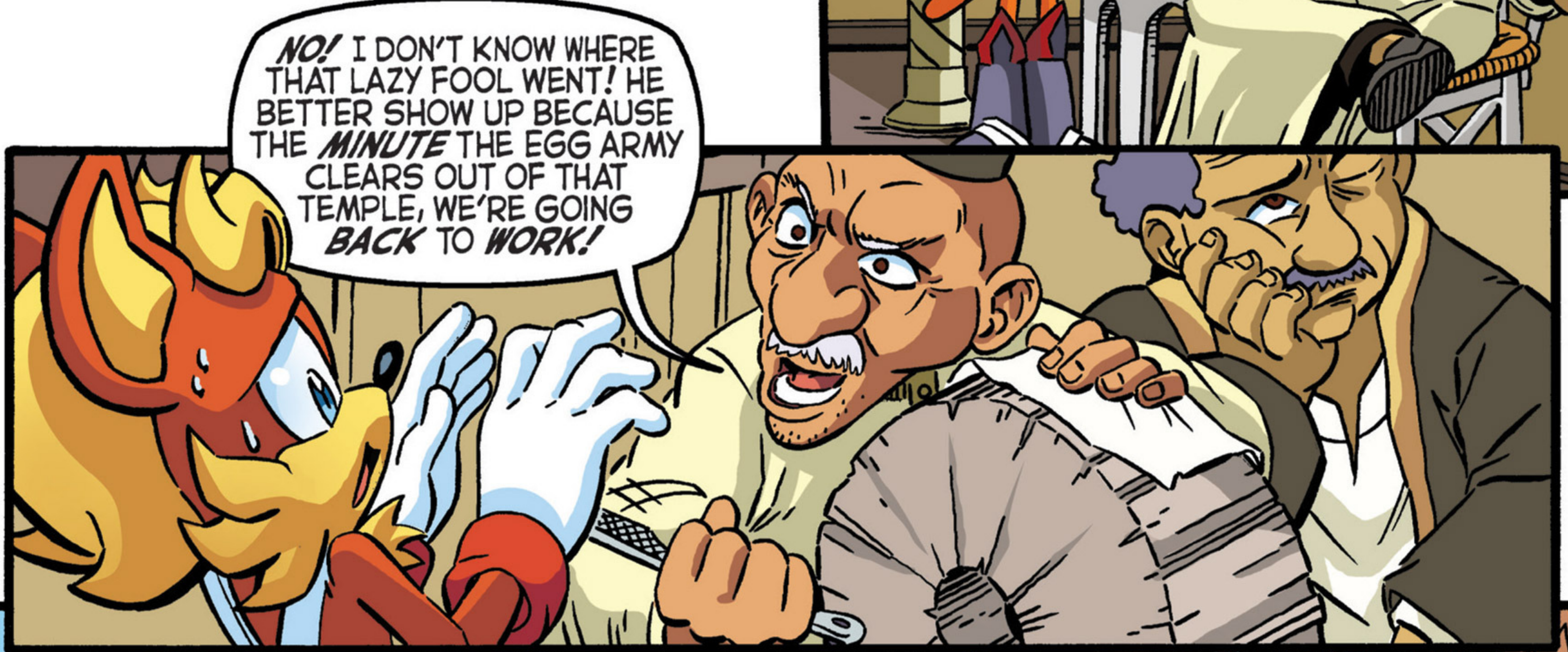
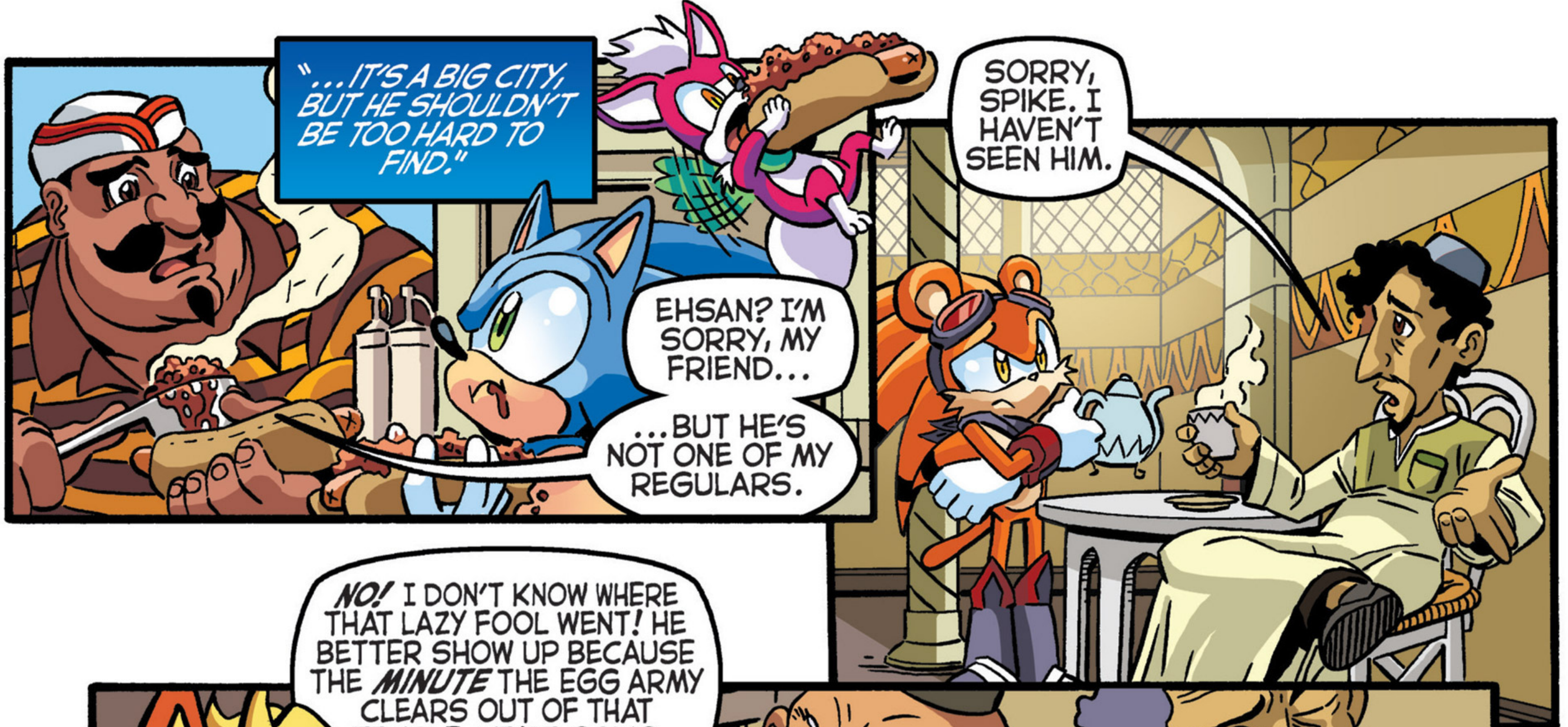
WE'RE LOOKING
FOR A GUY...

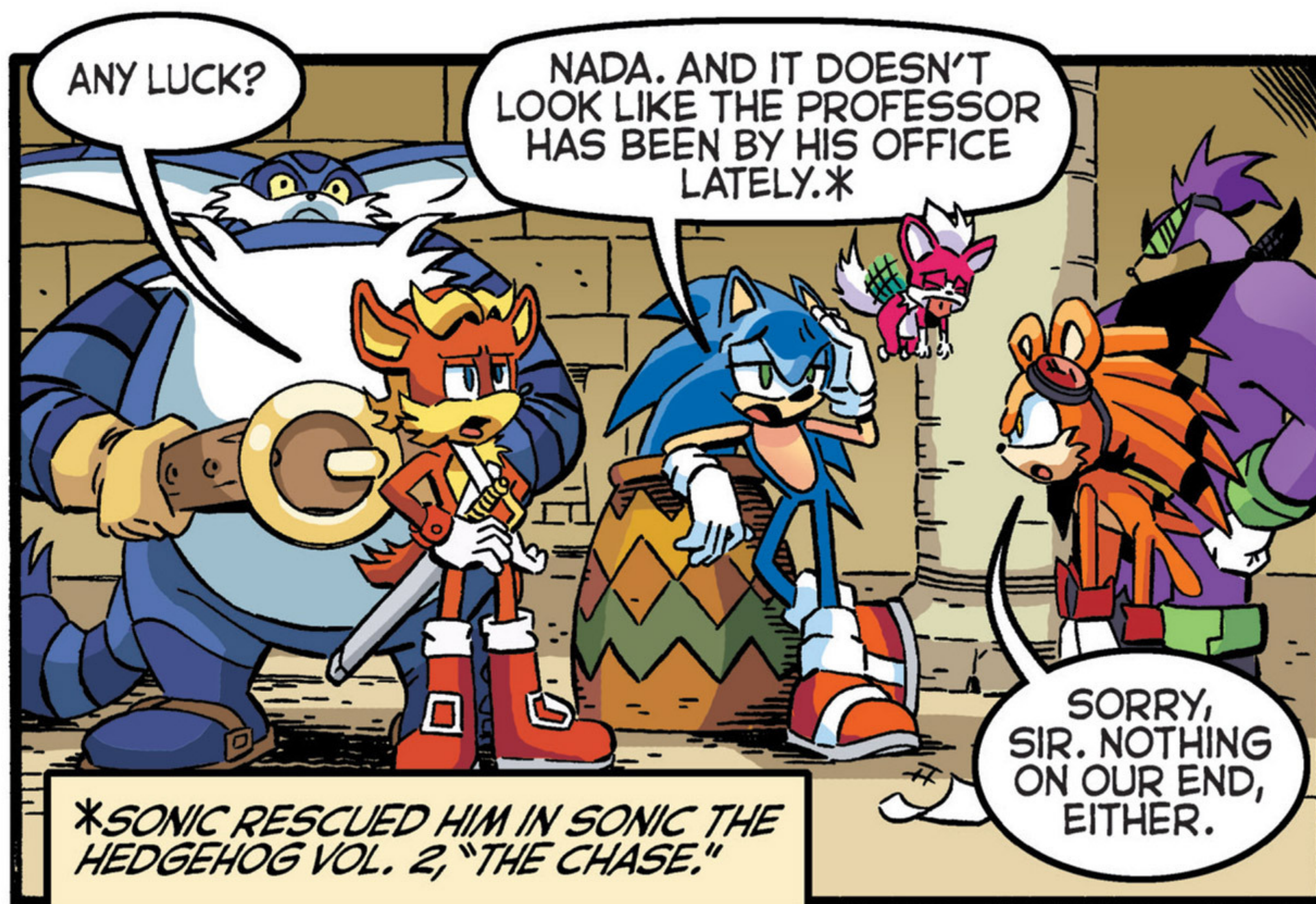
OF COURSE!



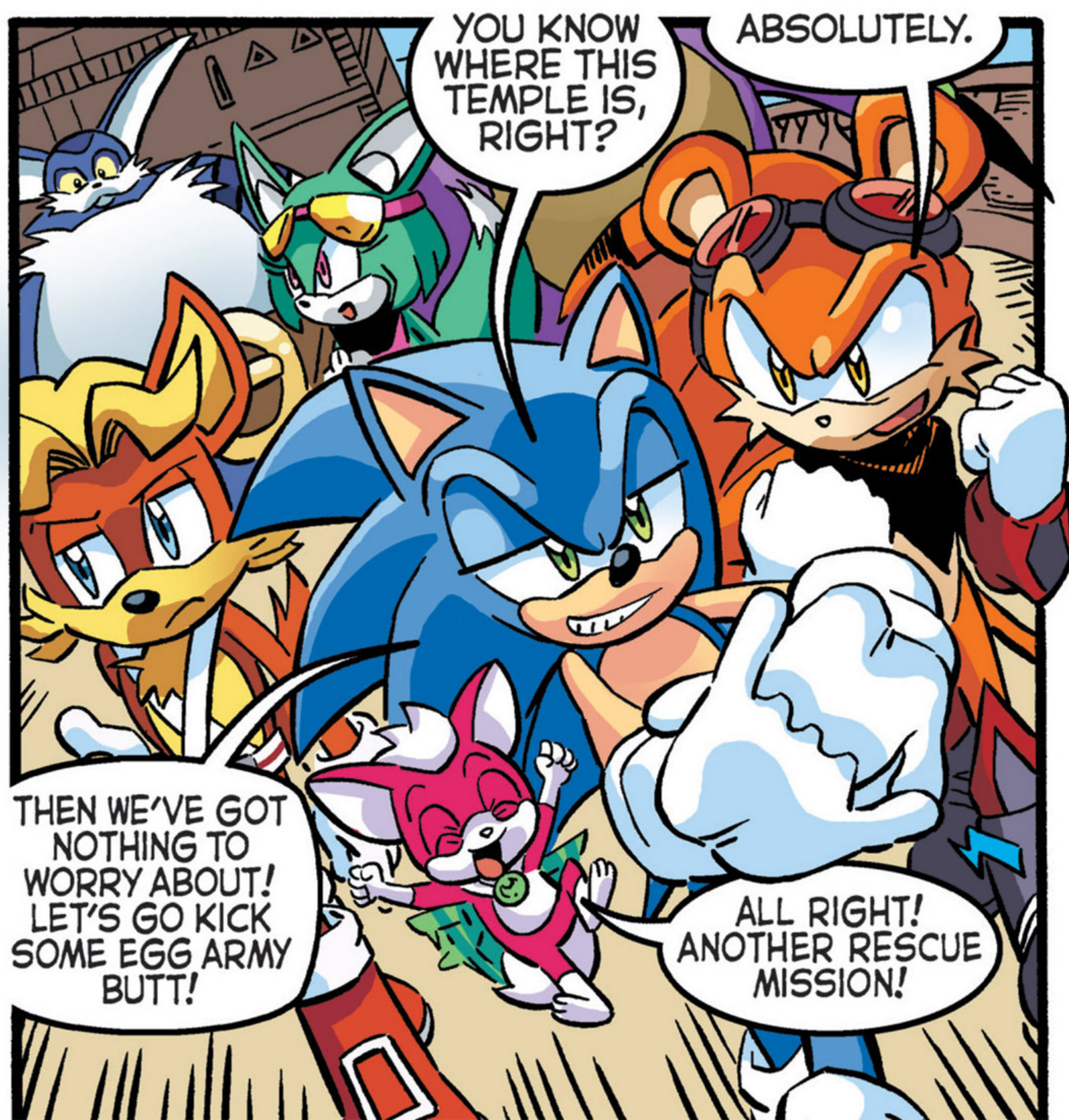
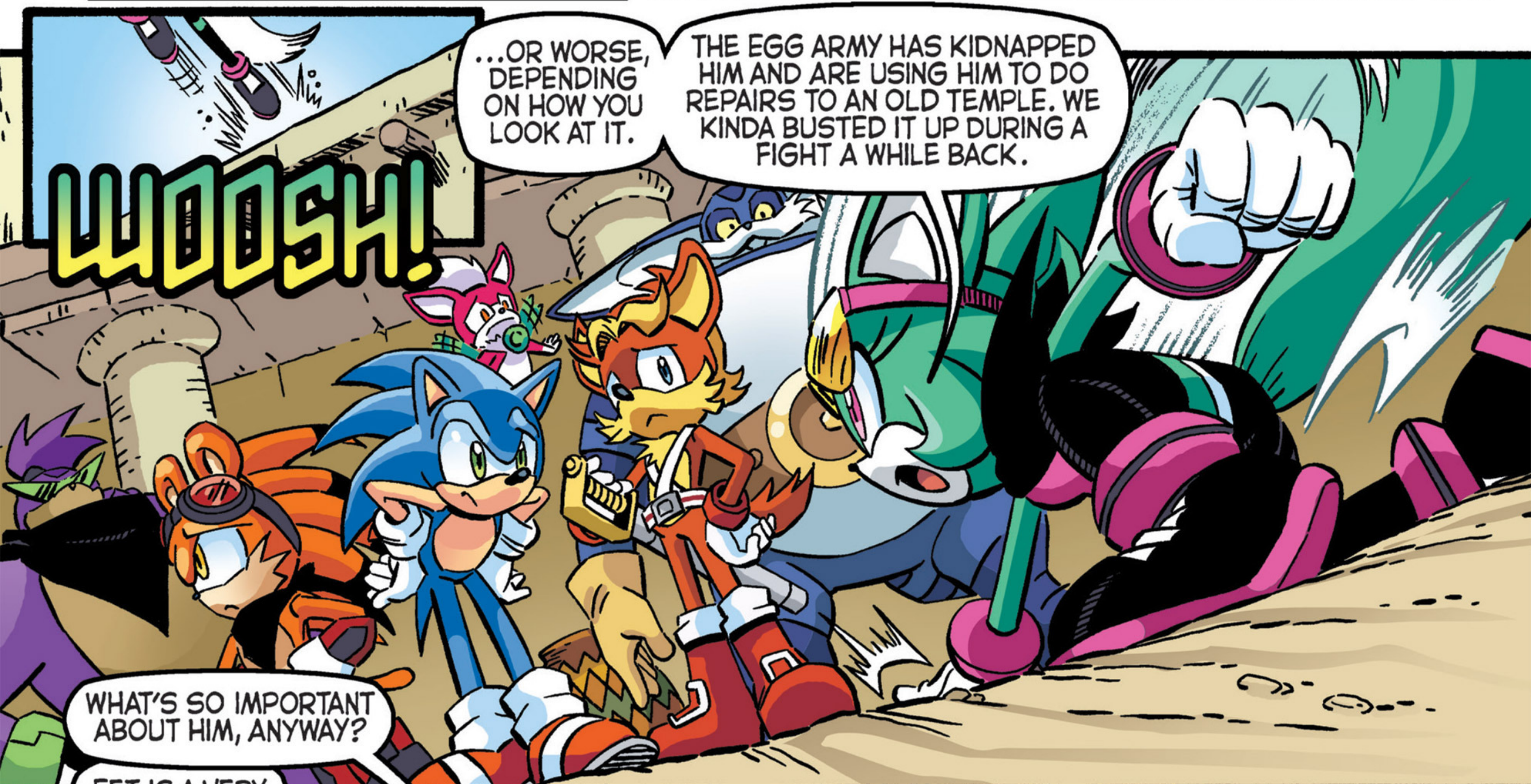
HELLO.

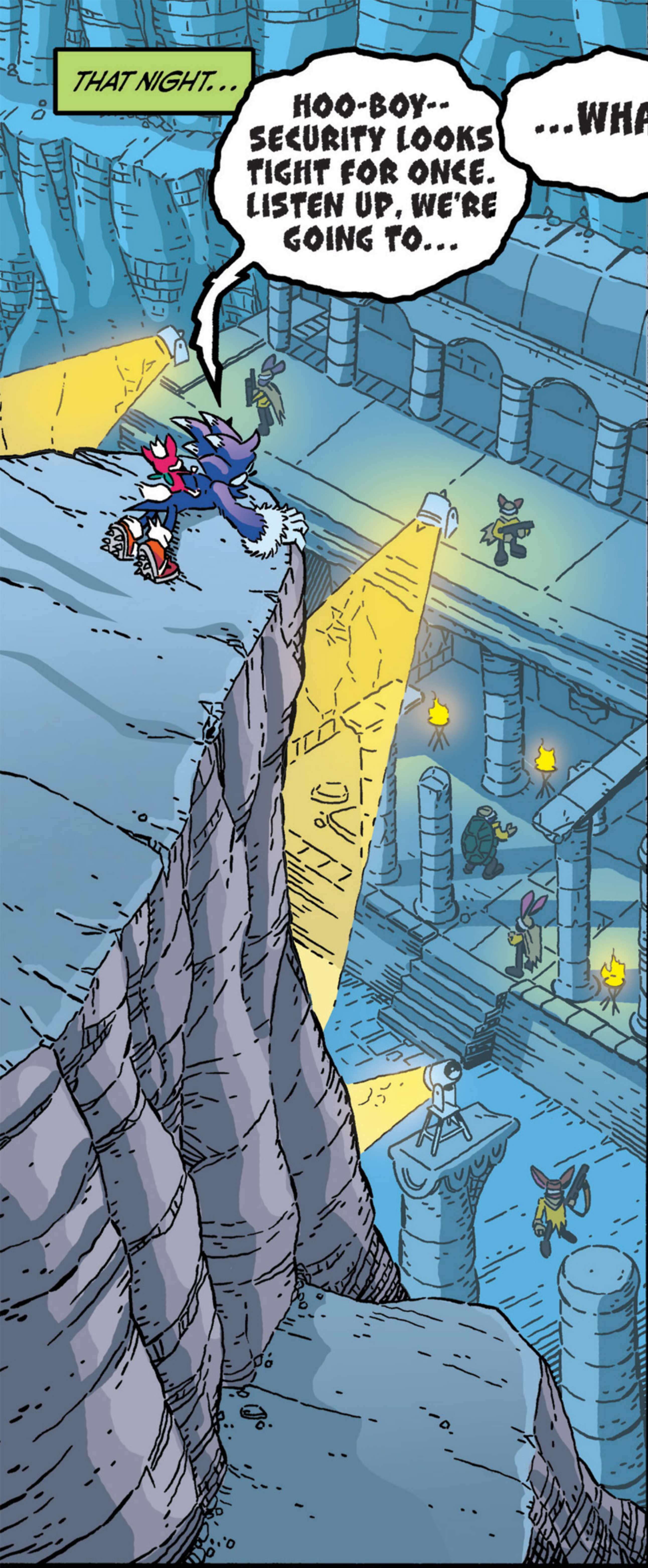
ZUT A LORES
...AS IF HIS
EGO NEEDED
TO GET ANY
BIGGER...





*SONIC RESCUED HIM IN SONIC THE HEDGEHOG VOL. 2, "THE CHASE."





THAT NIGHT...

HOO-BOY--
SECURITY LOOKS
TIGHT FOR ONCE.
LISTEN UP, WE'RE
GOING TO...

...WHAT?



S-SORRY.
J-JUST...WE
WEREN'T
EXPECTING
THIS SIDE
OF YOU!

ONE OF YOU
WILL HAVE TO
DESCRIBE IT
FOR ME
LATER.

I WANT TO
KNOW WHAT ALL
THE FUSS IS
ABOUT.



WHAT
HAPPENED
TO HIM?

OH, EET WAS
TERRIBLE! I WAS
THERE! EET IS A
STORY OF DANGER
AND SACRIFICE! ONE
OF PERIL AND--

SONIC BREATHED A
BUNCH OF DARK GAIA
GAS, AND NOW HE
TRANSFORMS AT
NIGHT.*

*SONIC THE HEDGEHOG VOL. 1,
"COUNTDOWN TO CHAOS."*

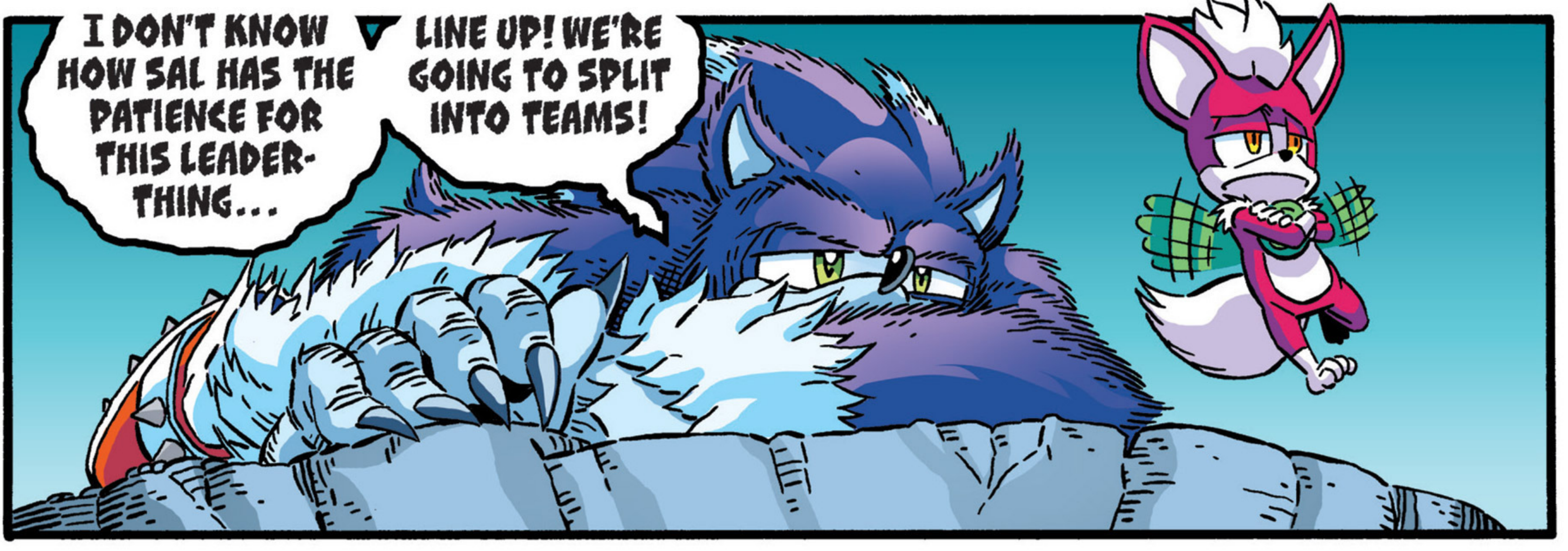


YOU ARE BEING ZE
SPOILING SPORT.

OH.
SORRY.

I DIDN'T KNOW WE
WERE PLAYING. CAN I
BE ON YOUR TEAM?

NOT
ZAT KIND OF
SPORT!

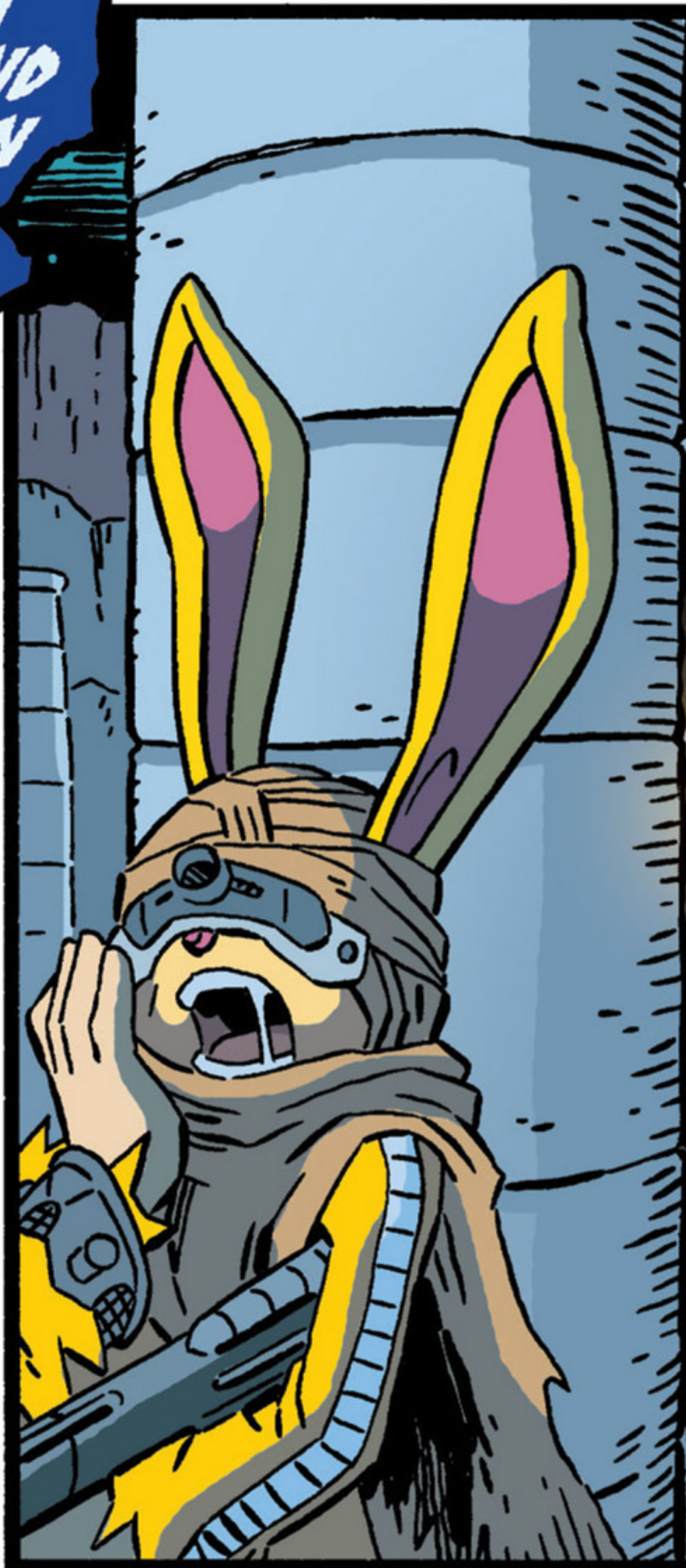


I DON'T KNOW
HOW SAL HAS THE
PATIENCE FOR
THIS LEADER-
THING...

LINE UP! WE'RE
GOING TO SPLIT
INTO TEAMS!



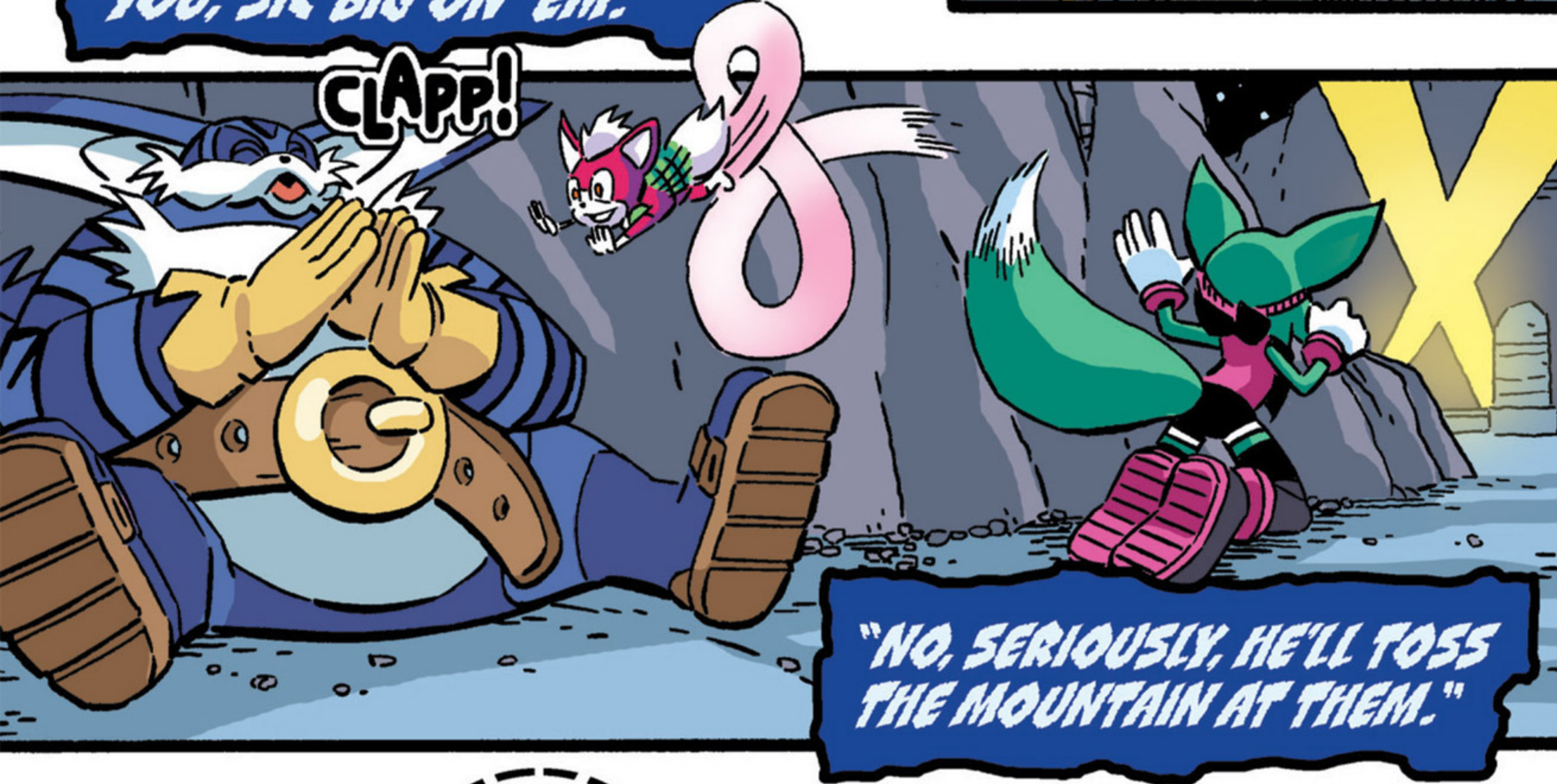
"I'LL TAKE THE HIGH ROAD AND SNEAK IN FROM ABOVE."



"SPIKE, YOU GUYS KNOW THIS AREA BETTER THAN WE DO. TAKE ANTOINE AND SEE IF YOU CAN'T GET AROUND THOSE GUARDS."



"SONAR, YOU WATCH OUR BACKS. IF ANYONE FINDS YOU, SIC BIG ON 'EM."



CLAPP!

"NO, SERIOUSLY, HE'LL TOSS THE MOUNTAIN AT THEM."



SHH-SHH-SHH! HOLD UP!

EEK! WHAT IS IT?

DUNNO...

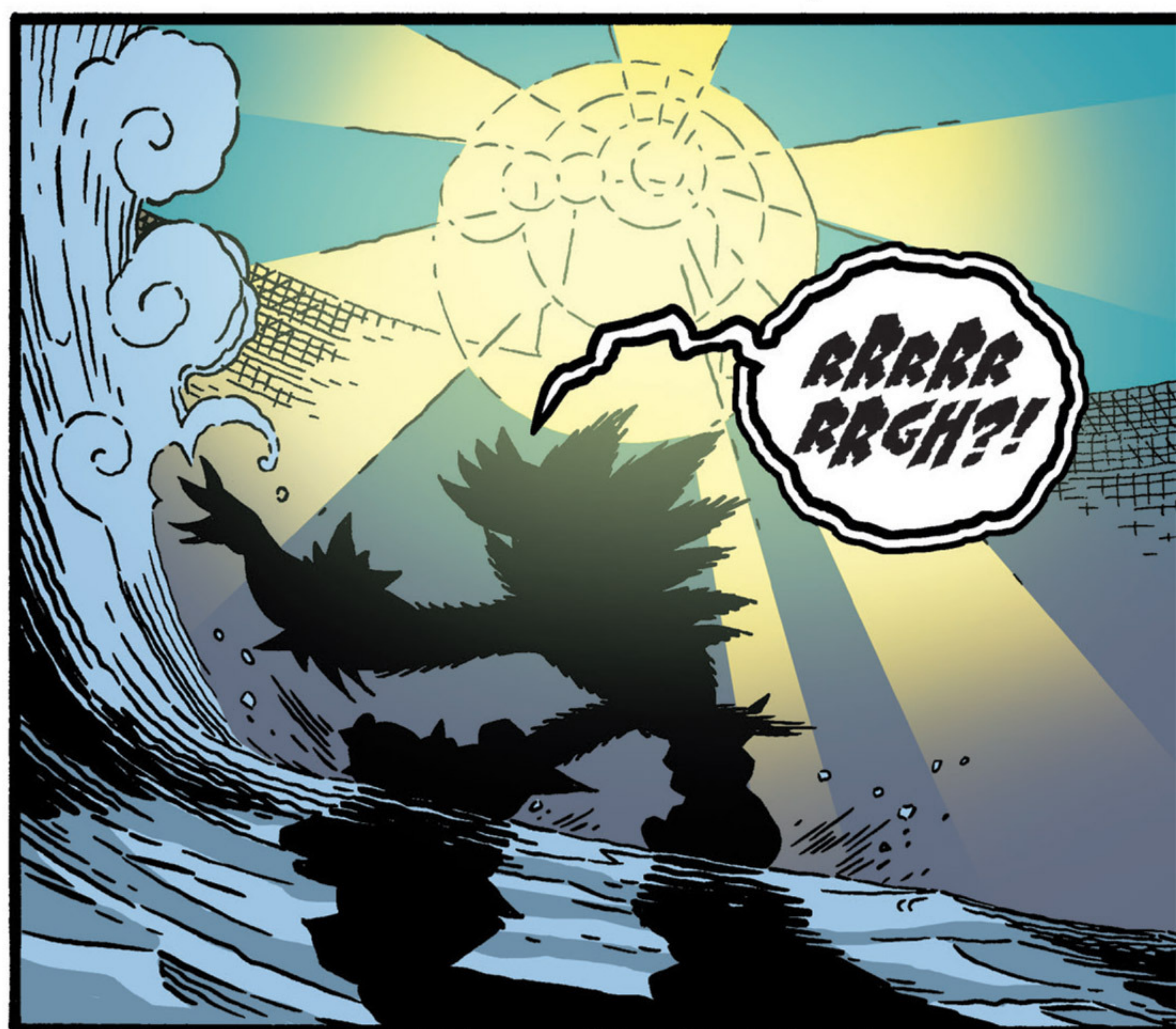
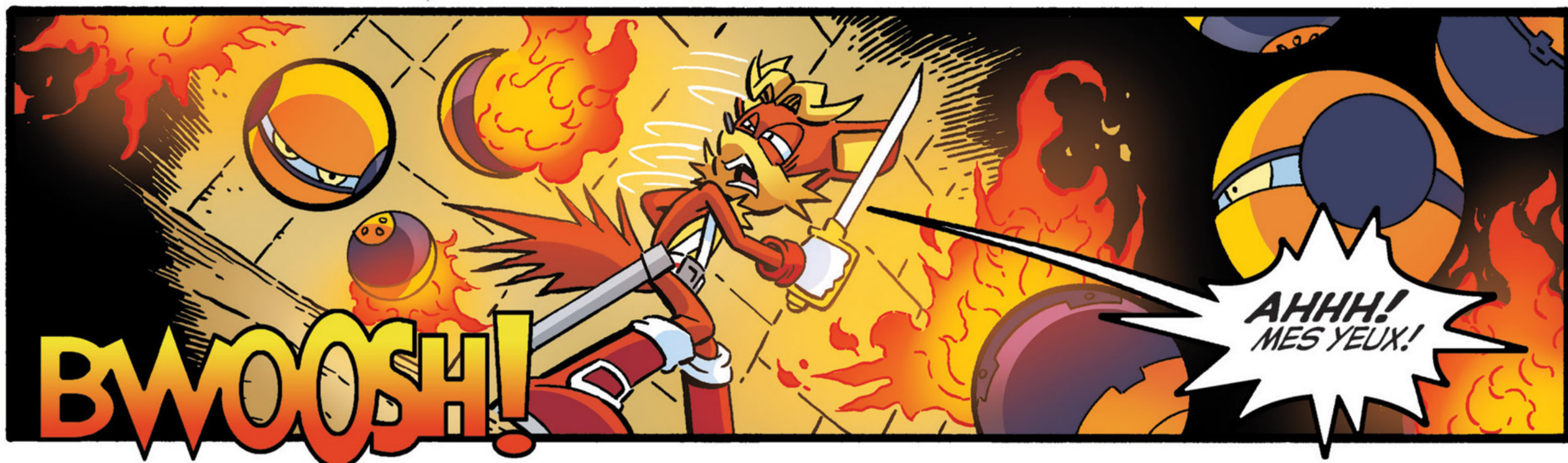


CHIP, YOU STAY WITH ME. BIG, WILL YOU CHECK IT OUT?

OKAY!



H-HELLO ...?





YOU'RE
A LONG WAY
FROM HOME,

SONIC
THE WEREWOLF

A PITY
YOU'LL DIE
HERE.

NEPHTHYS
THE
VULTURE
REGIONAL
EGG BOSS

SONIC AND HIS FRIENDS CAME TO *RESCUE* A
GAIA KEY GUARDIAN, BUT WHO'S GOING TO
RESCUE *THEM*?!
DON'T MISS OUT ON EVEN *MORE ADVENTURE* WITH
SONIC UNIVERSE,
SONIC SUPER DIGEST AND THE
GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY!

STONE STORM-
LANDS ZONE...

AH DON'T
GET IT
WITH YOU
EGG ARMY
TYPES...

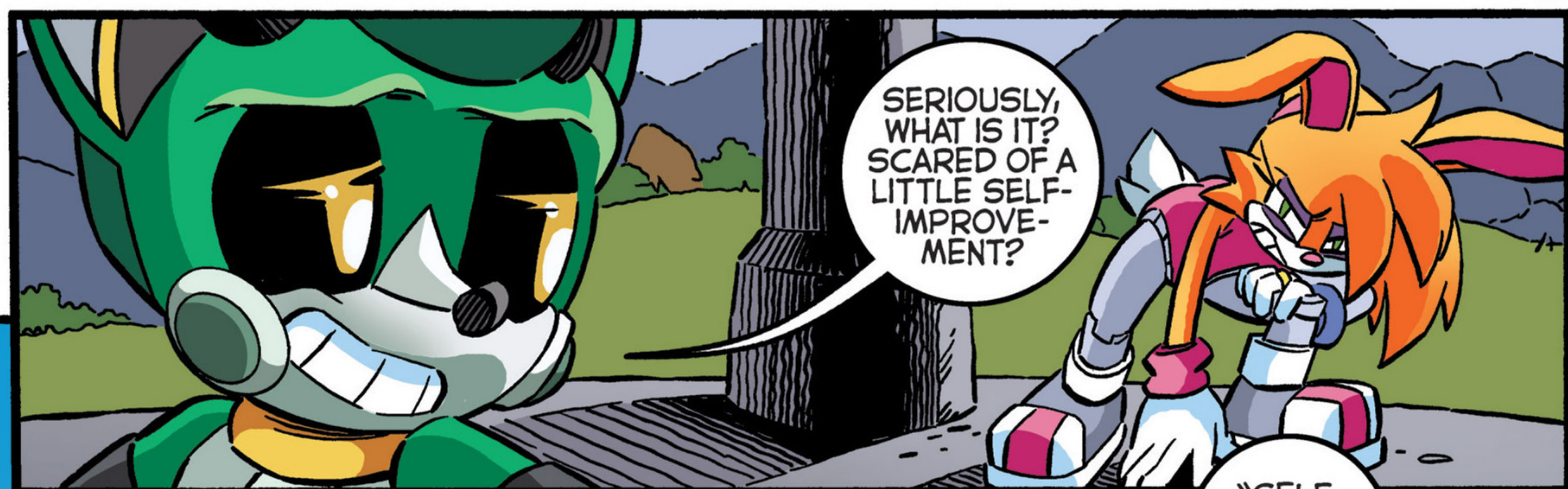
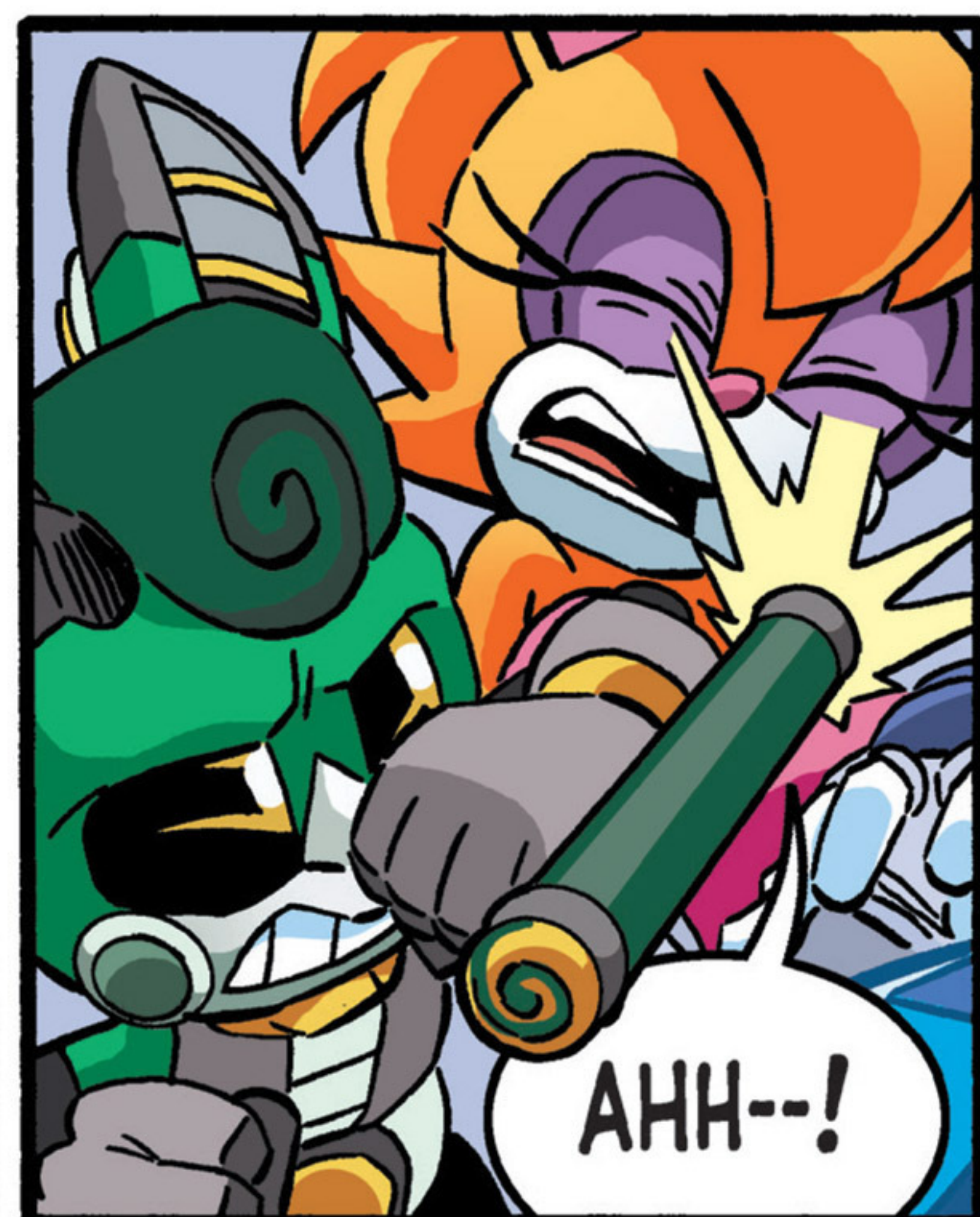
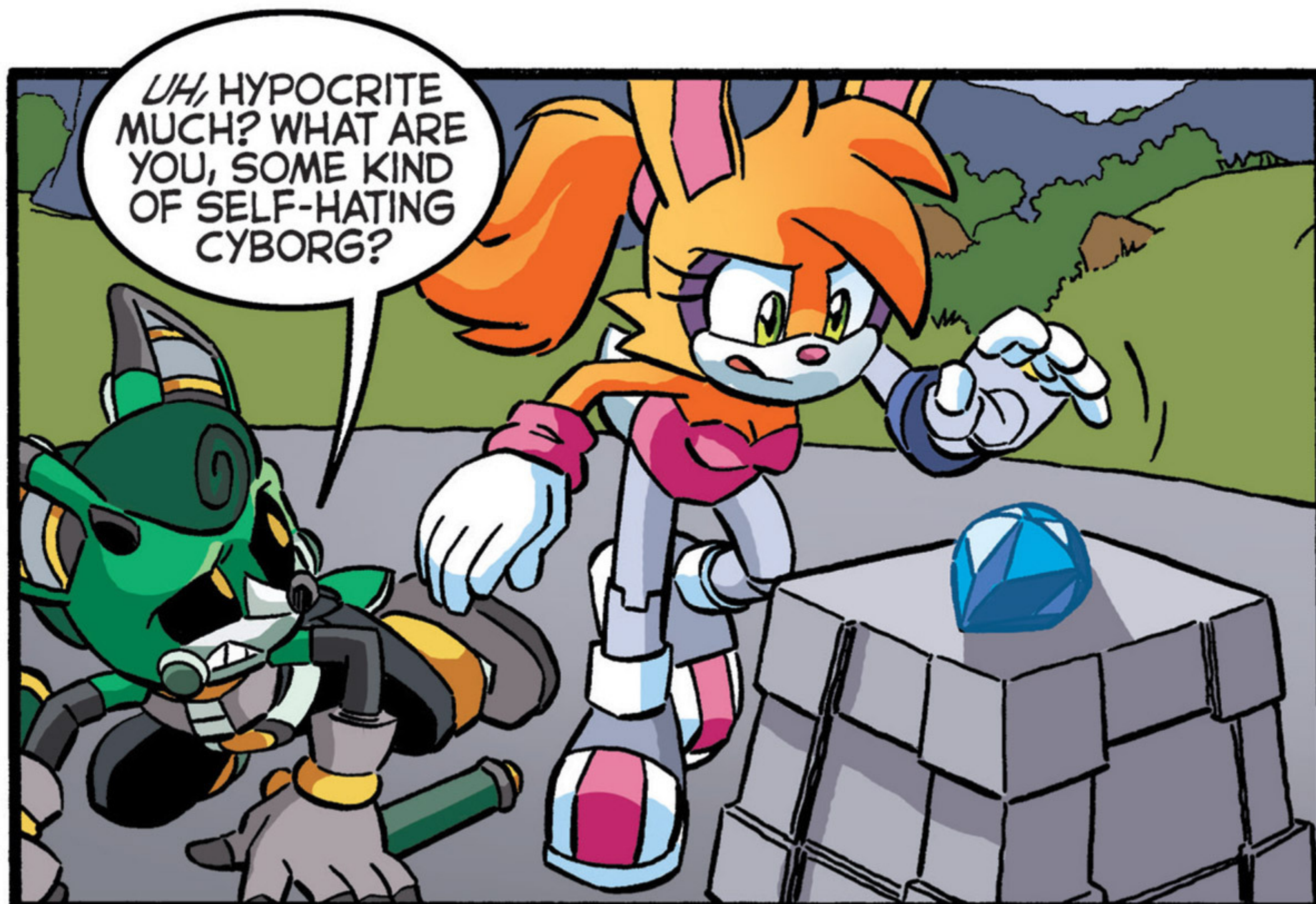
IS IT WORTH
SELLIN' YOURSELF
TO DR. EGGMAN
JUST FOR SOME
FANCY ROBOTICS?

HIDDEN COSTS

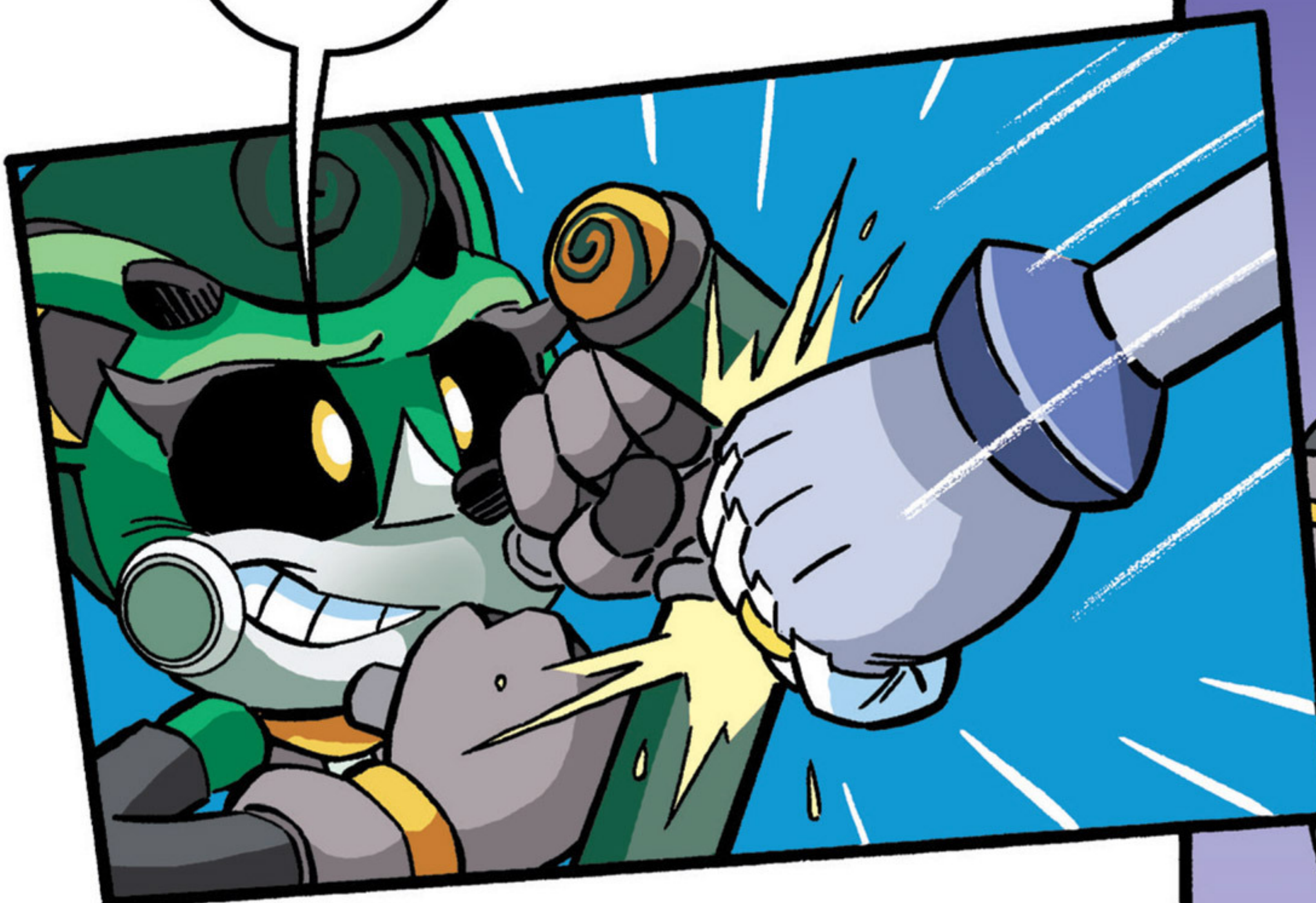
PART TWO

WRITER: ALEAH BAKER
PENCILS: EVAN STANLEY
INKS: TERRY AUSTIN
COLORS: GABRIEL CASSATA
LETTERS: JOHN WORKMAN

UGH!



OOH,
DID I HIT A
NERVE?



I MEAN, I
GUESS *ONE*
OF YOUR
ARMS STILL
HAS THOSE--
OOO!



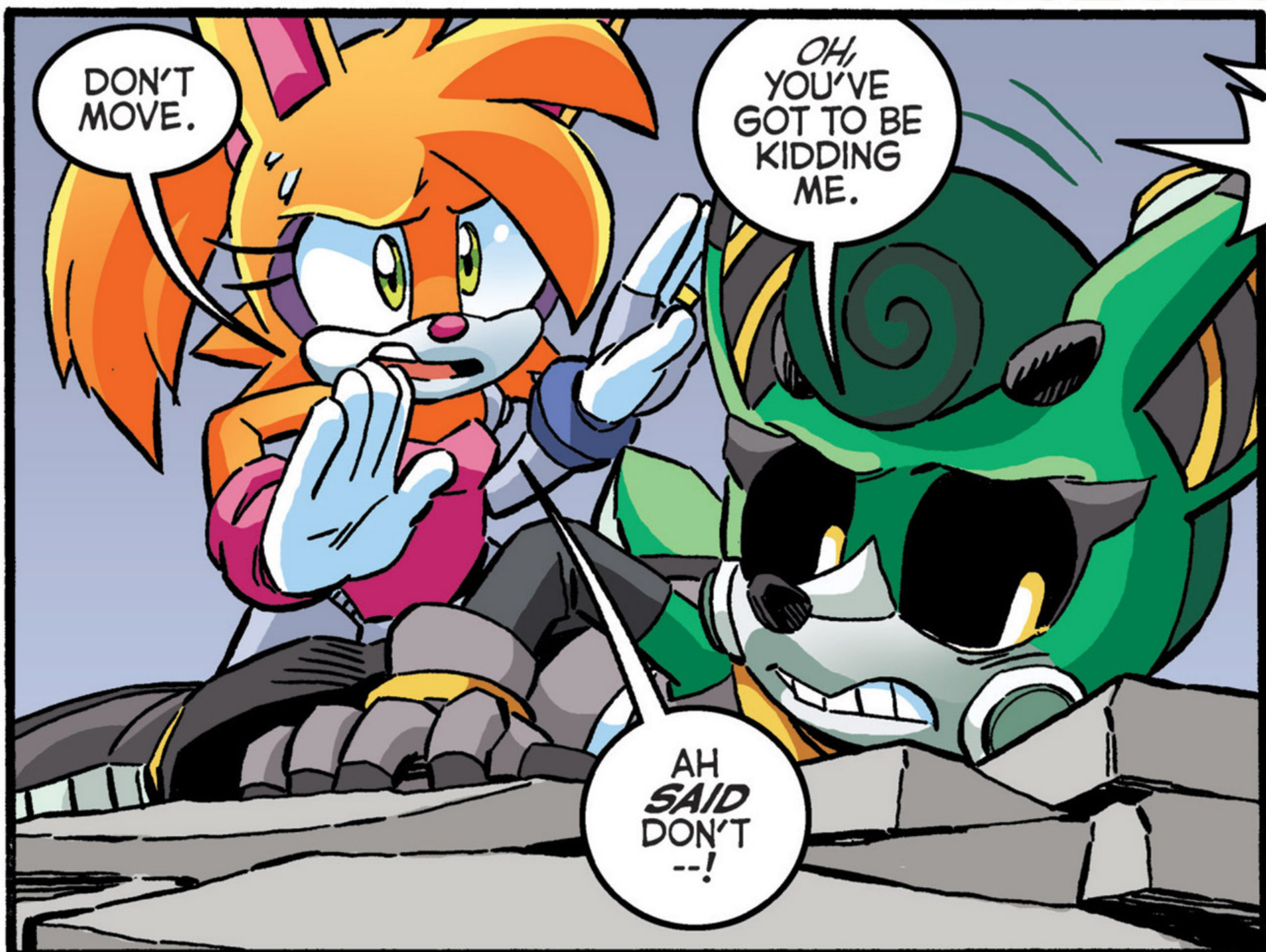
YOU
OBNOXIOUS
LITTLE--



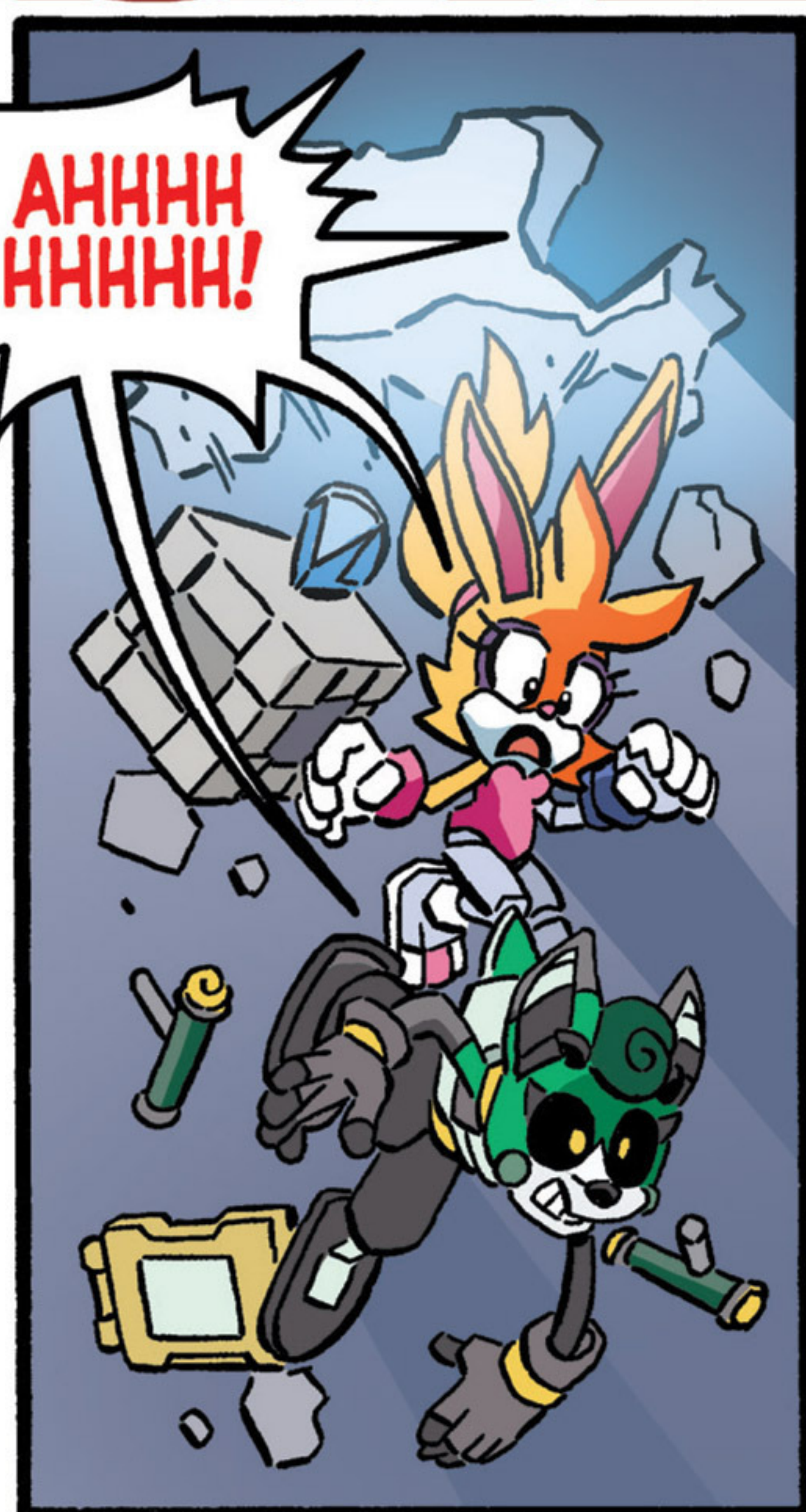
DON'T
MOVE.

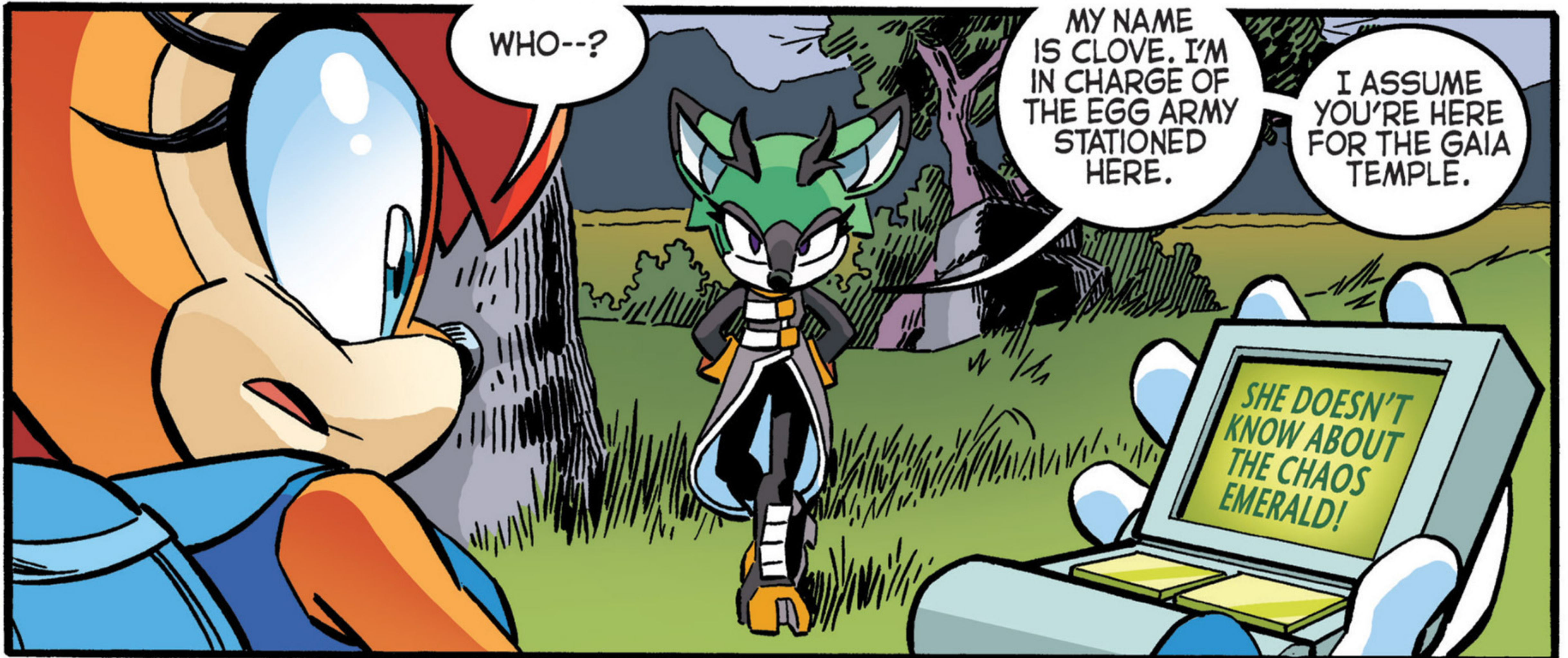
OH,
YOU'VE
GOT TO BE
KIDDING
ME.

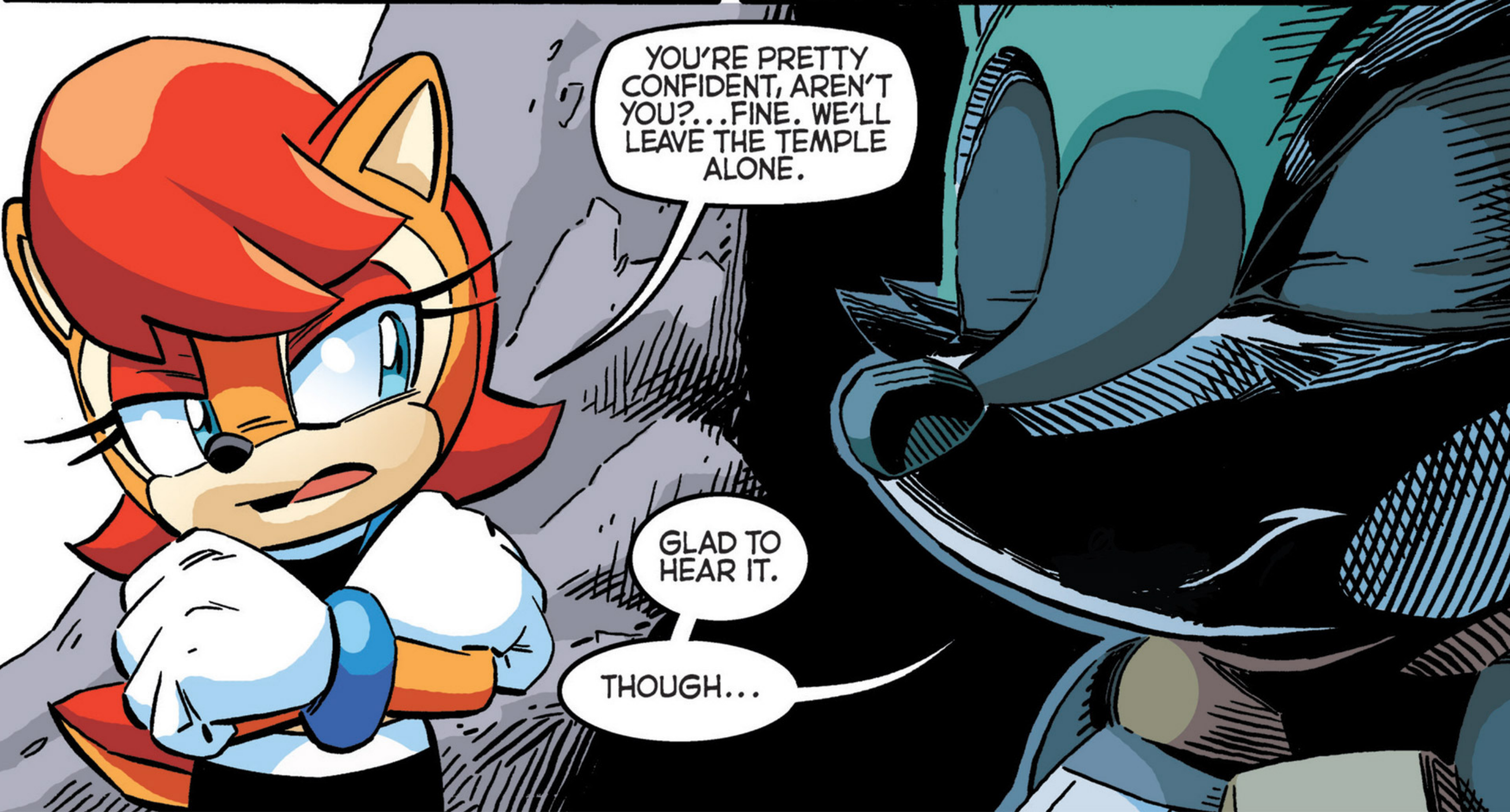
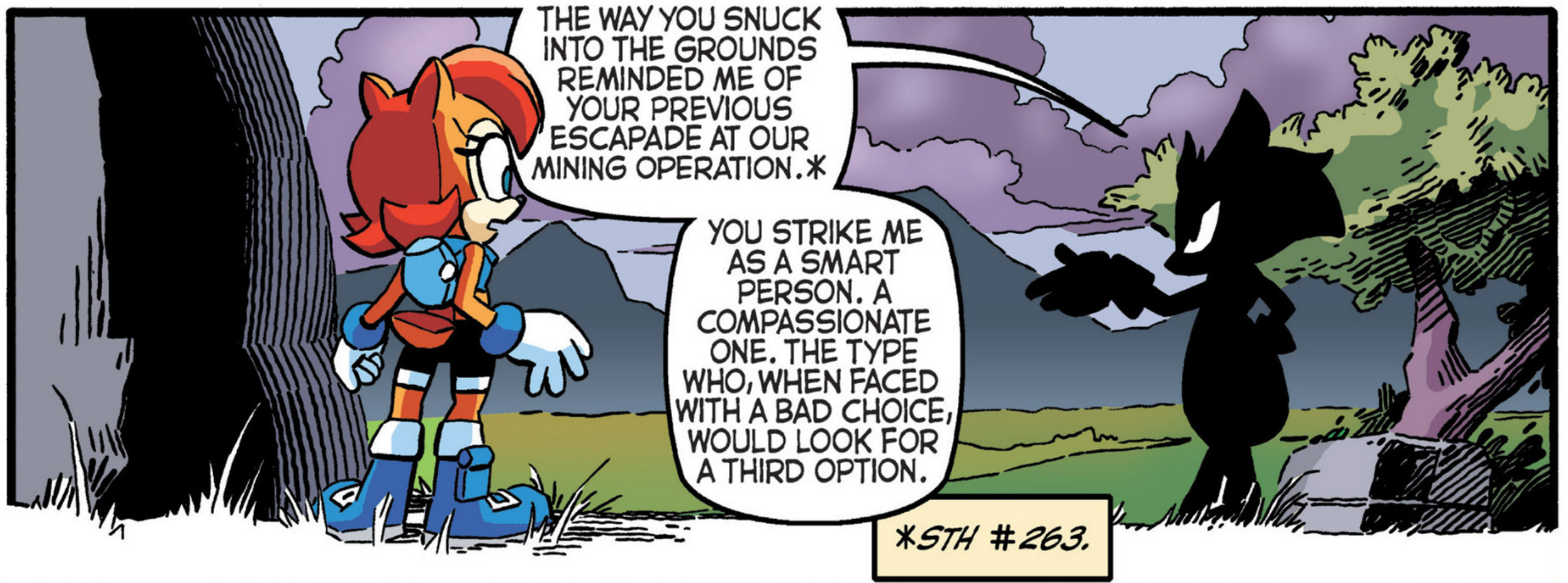
AH
SAID
DON'T
--!

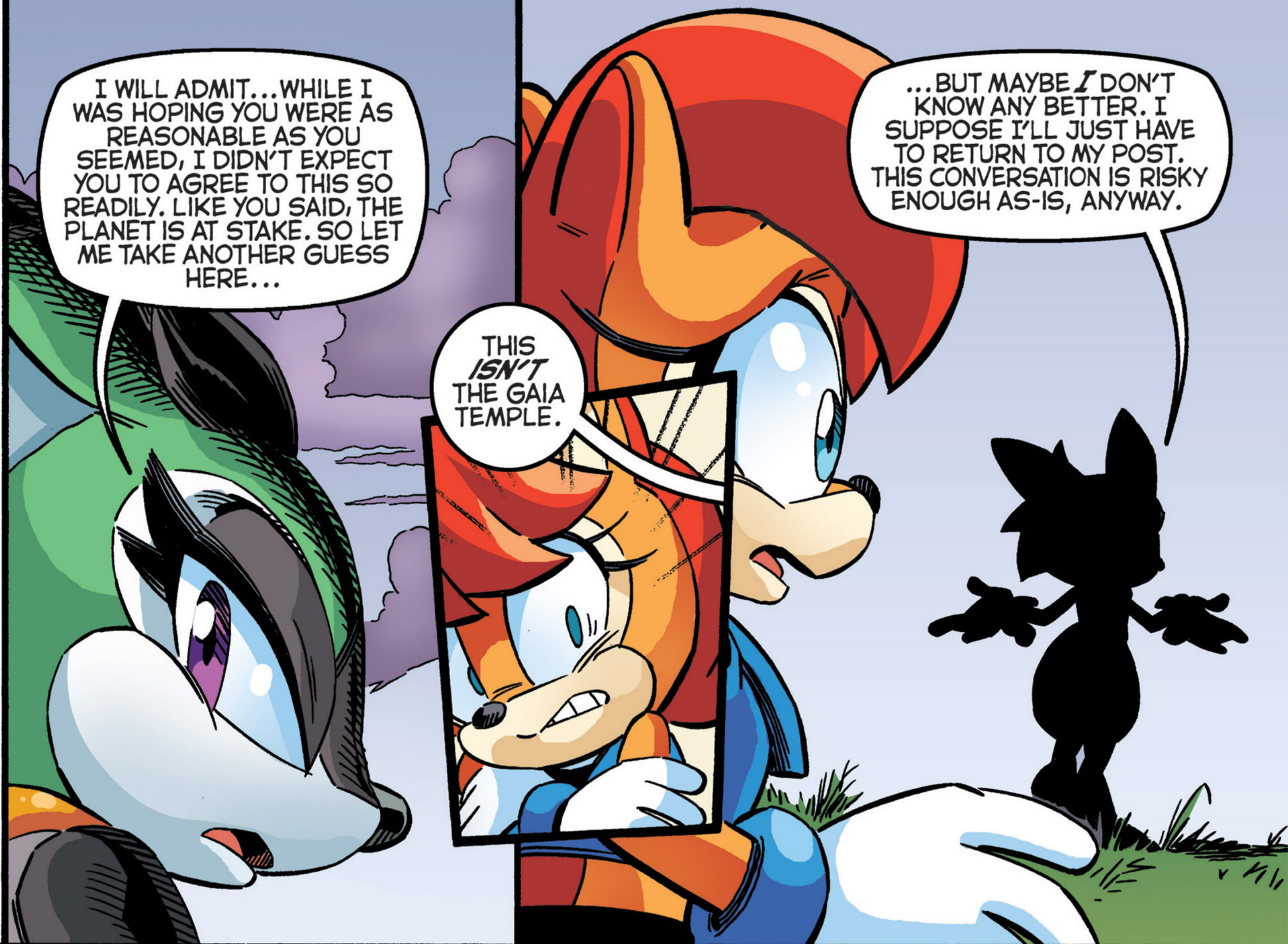


**AHHHH
HHHHH!**





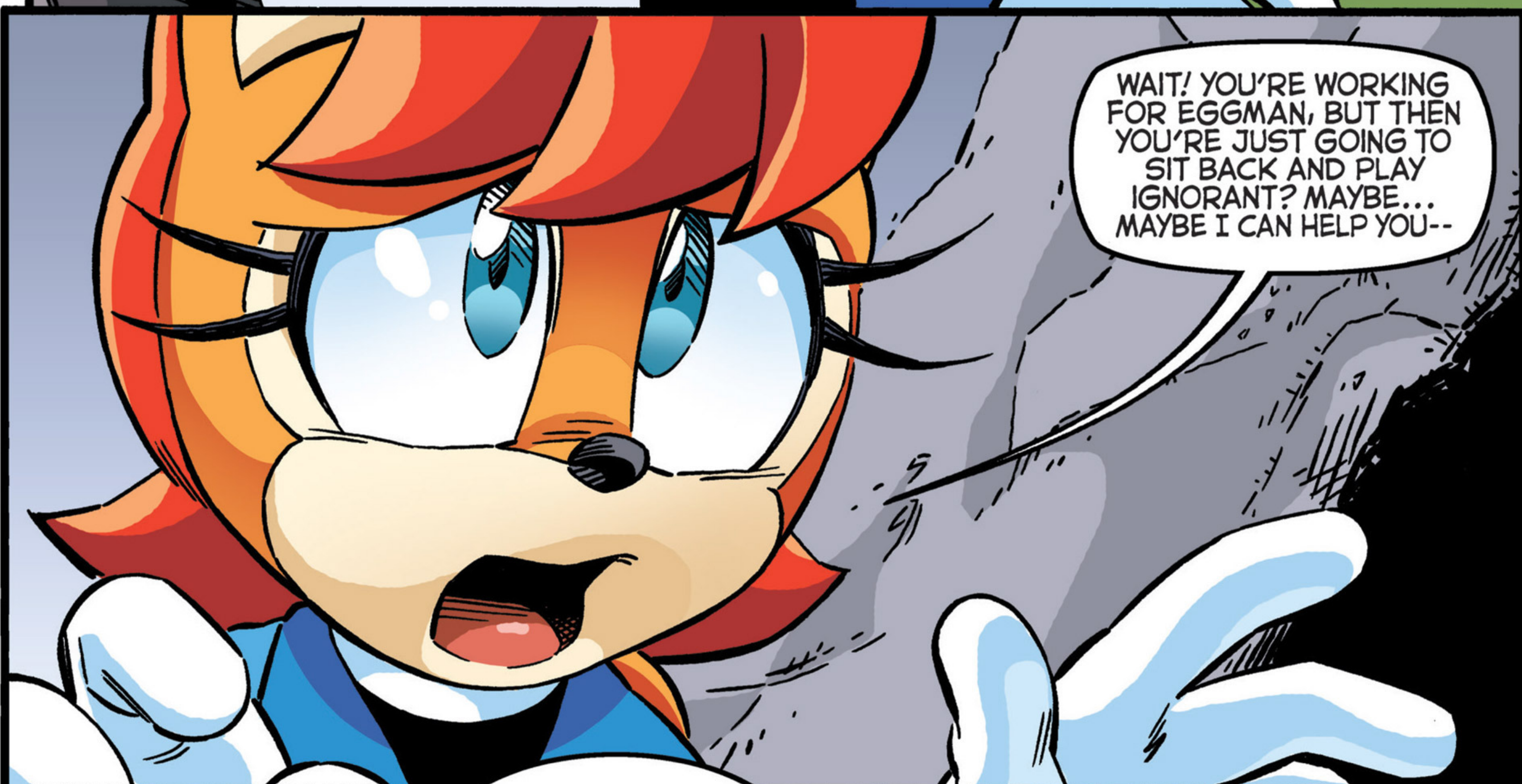




I WILL ADMIT...WHILE I WAS HOPING YOU WERE AS REASONABLE AS YOU SEEMED, I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO AGREE TO THIS SO READILY. LIKE YOU SAID, THE PLANET IS AT STAKE. SO LET ME TAKE ANOTHER GUESS HERE...

THIS *ISN'T* THE GAIA TEMPLE.

...BUT MAYBE *I* DON'T KNOW ANY BETTER. I SUPPOSE I'LL JUST HAVE TO RETURN TO MY POST. THIS CONVERSATION IS RISKY ENOUGH AS-IS, ANYWAY.



WAIT! YOU'RE WORKING FOR EGGMAN, BUT THEN YOU'RE JUST GOING TO SIT BACK AND PLAY IGNORANT? MAYBE... MAYBE I CAN HELP YOU--



BY NOT INVOLVING MY PEOPLE IN MORE FIGHTING, YOU *ARE* HELPING.

GOODBYE, PRINCESS.

MEANWHILE...

≡COUGH≡
≡COUGH≡

UHN...

WAY
TO GO,
IDIOT!
YOU--

OW OW
OW!

UGH, I
CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
MY SISTER IS GONNA
FREAK...

MAYBE
YOU CAN
JUST ASK OL'
EGGMAN FOR A
NEW LEG. WHAT'S
ONE MORE
SELFISH
UPGRADE?

SELFISH?

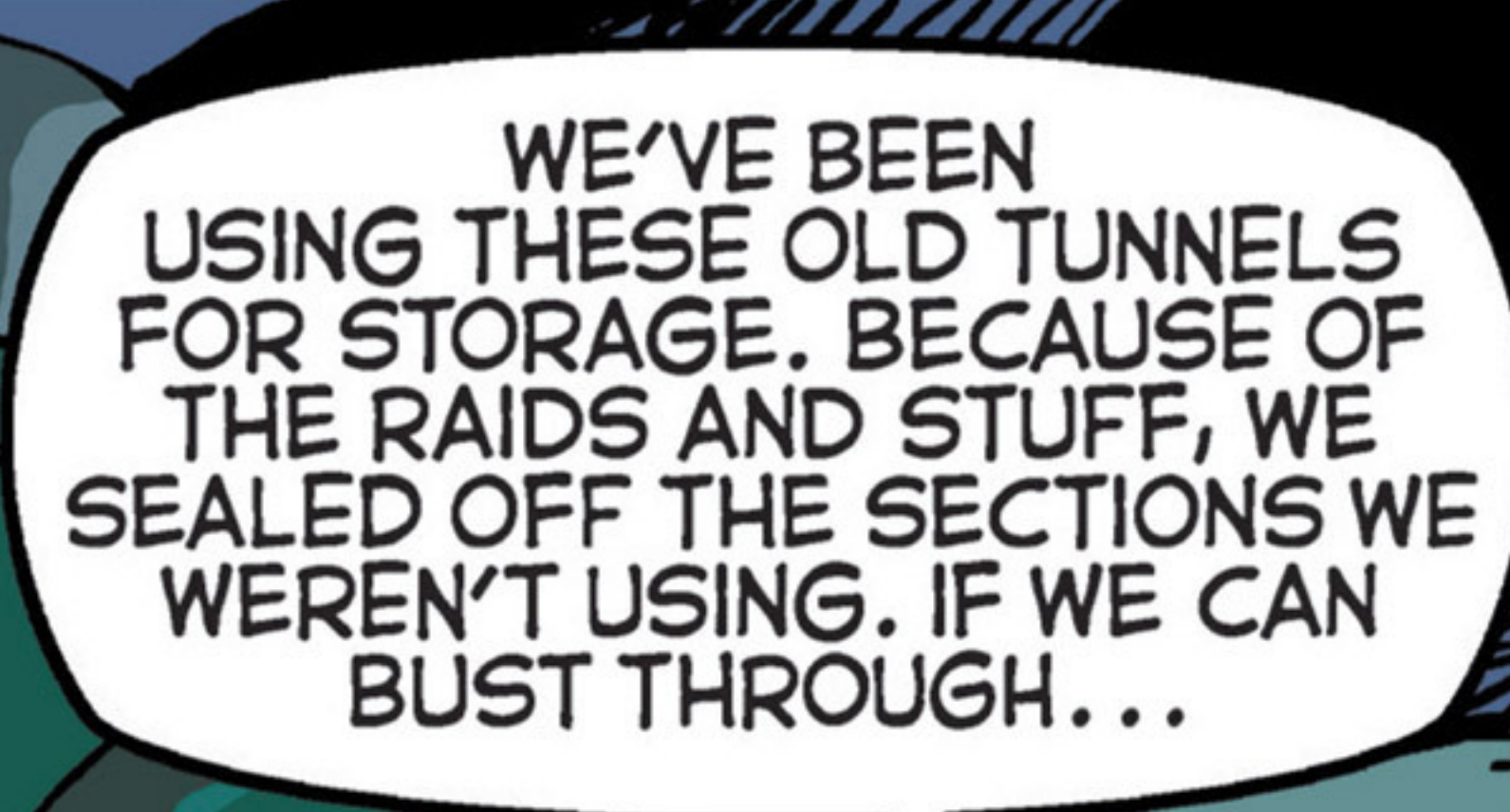
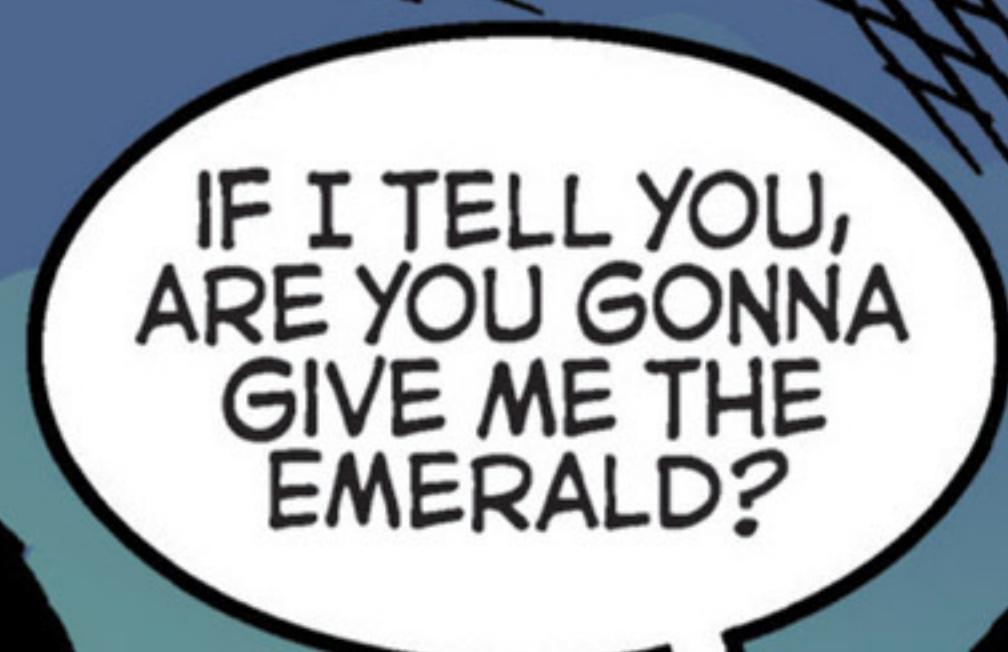
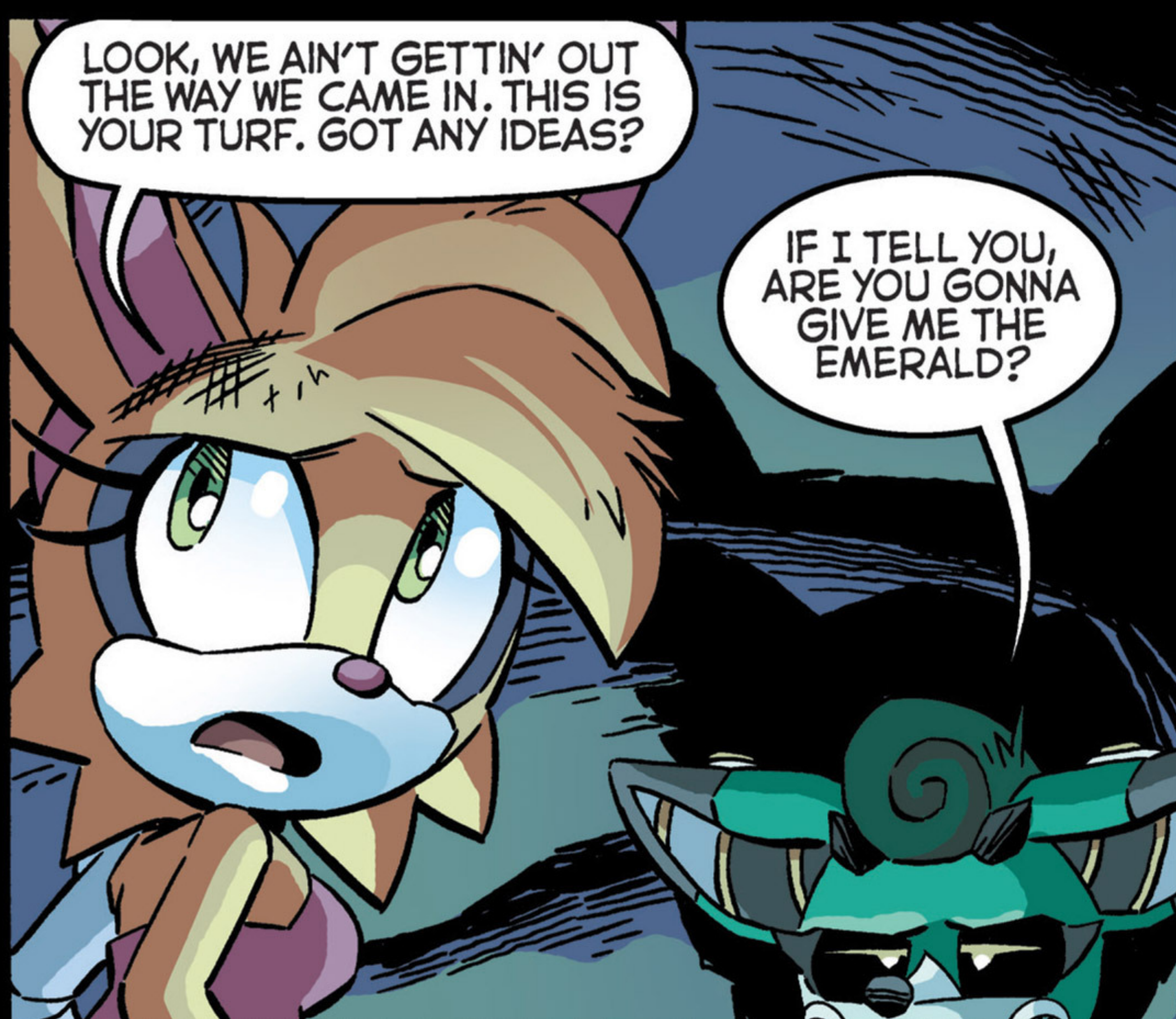
IT'S SELFISH OF ME TO NOT
WANNA BE SICK ALL THE TIME?
I'M SELFISH FOR WANTING MY
STUPID EYES AND EARS TO
WORK AGAIN?!

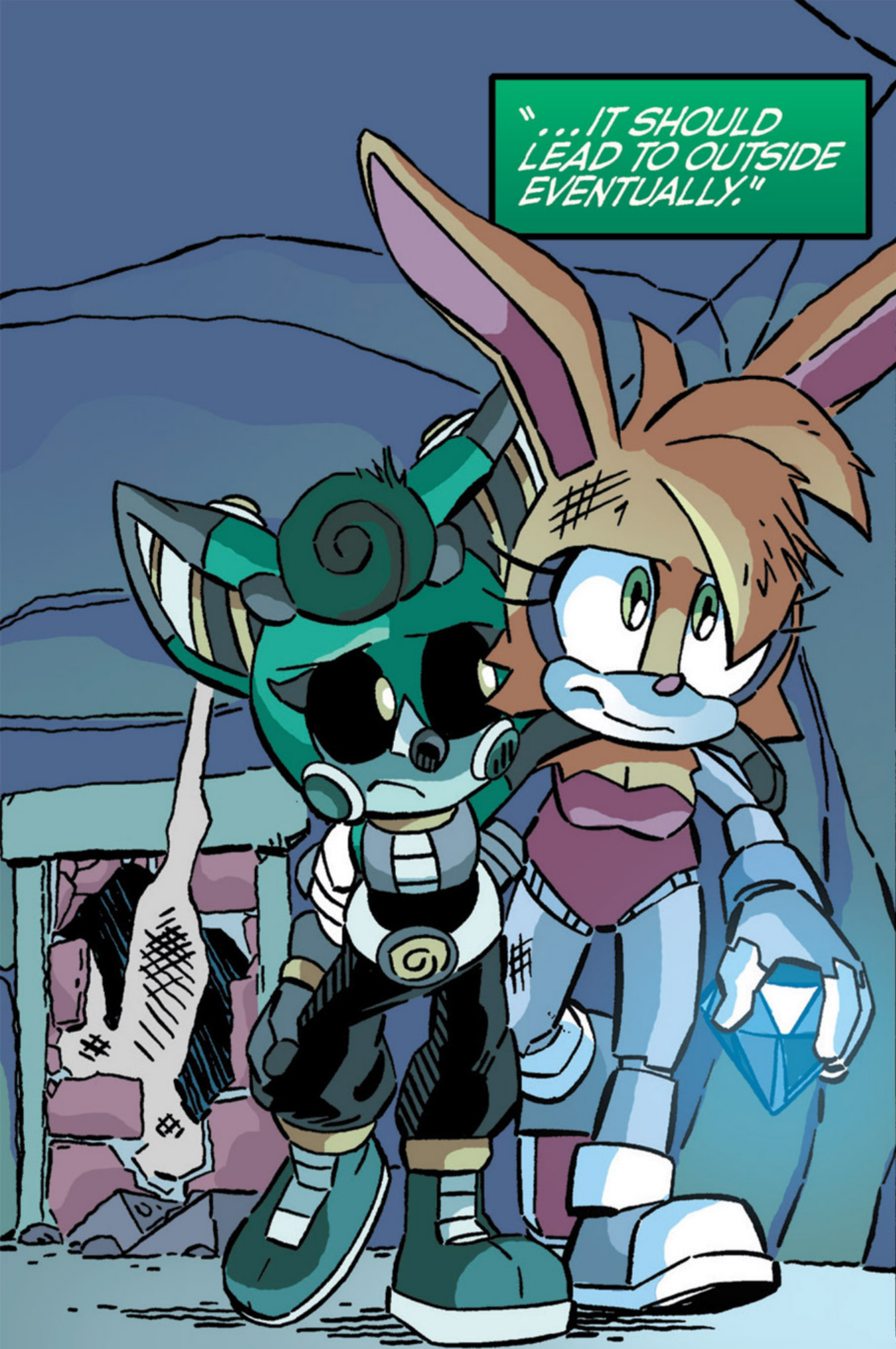
...AH JUST...
WAS EGGMAN
REALLY THE ONLY
OPTION?

OH, GEE, I
SHOULD HAVE
JUST GONE TO
THE LOCAL
CYBORG STORE,
I GUESS? WHAT
WERE MY
OPTIONS, *HUH?*
C'MON, TELL
ME.

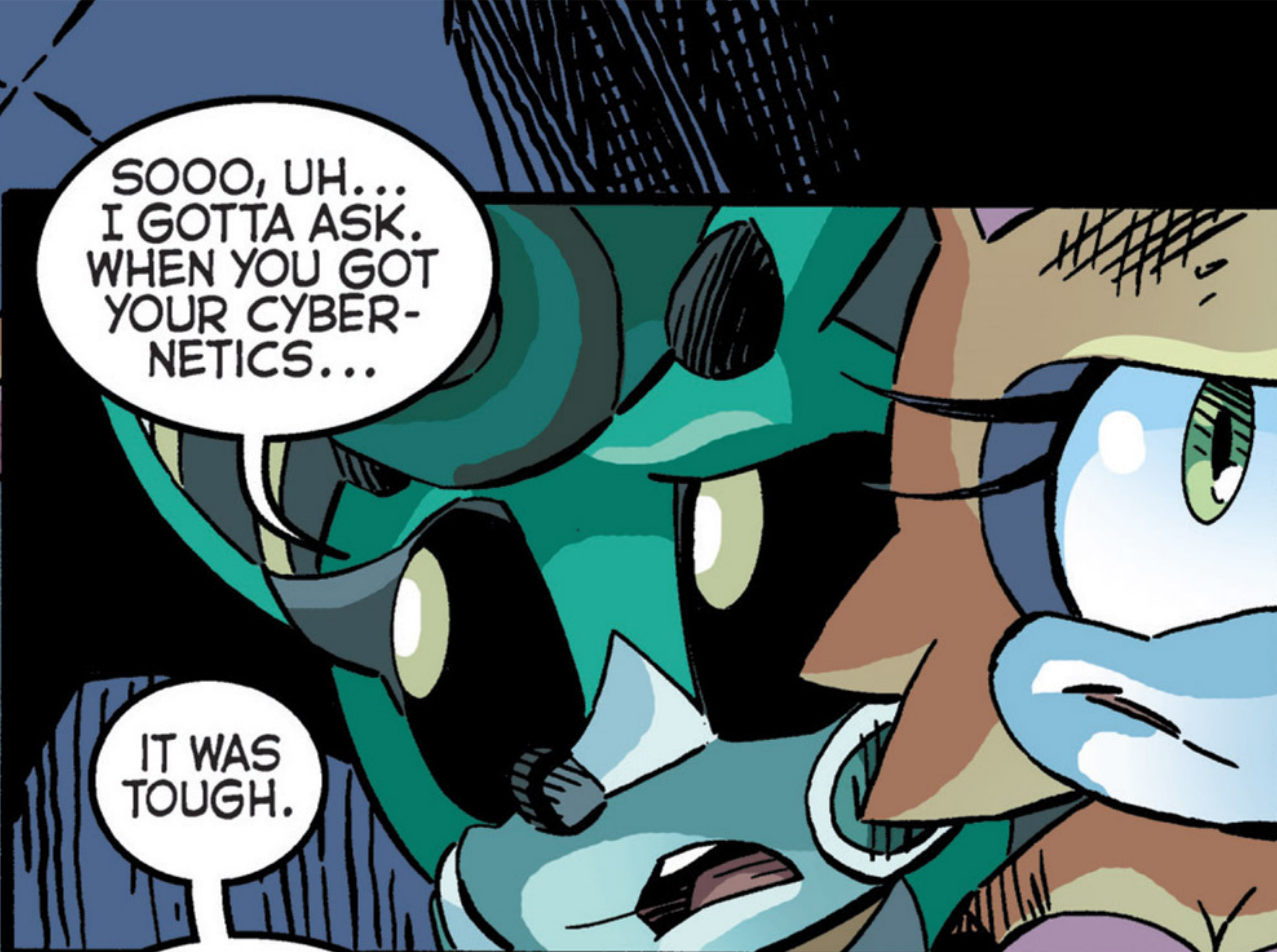
YOU
DON'T KNOW
ANYTHING
ABOUT ME!

...YER
RIGHT. AH
DON'T.





"...IT SHOULD
LEAD TO OUTSIDE
EVENTUALLY."



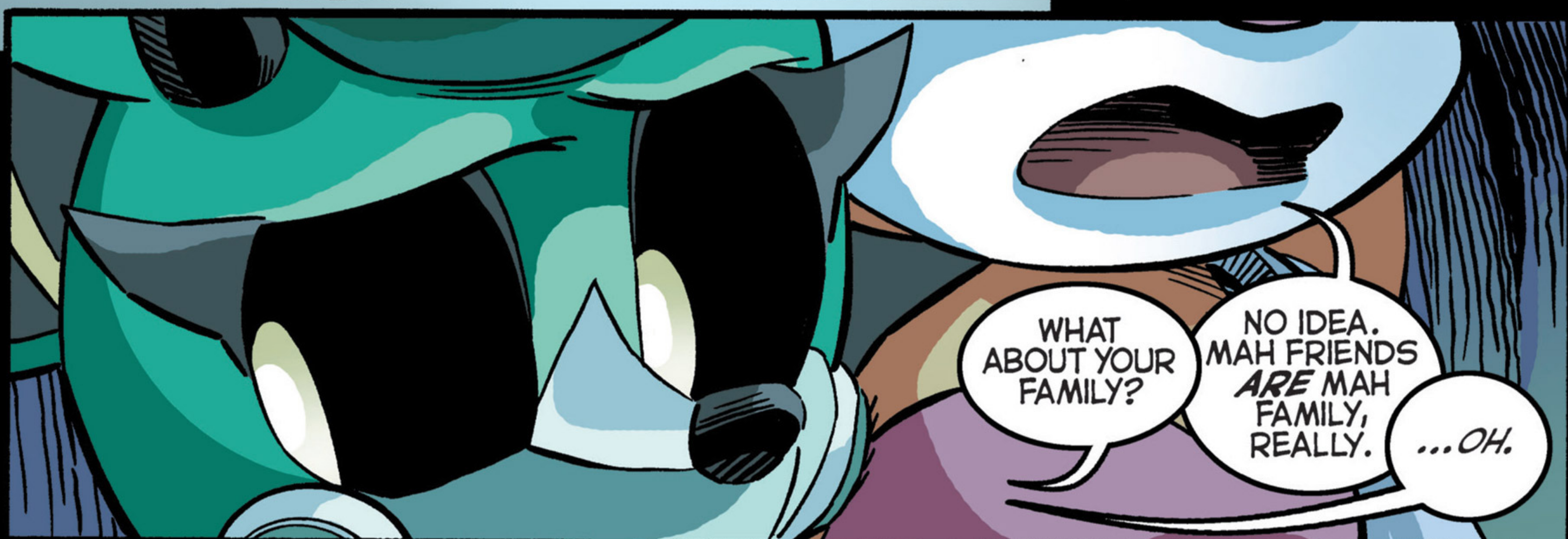
SOOO, UH...
I GOTTA ASK.
WHEN YOU GOT
YOUR CYBER-
NETICS...



IT WAS
TOUGH.

AH HAD TO
LEARN TO WALK
ALL OVER
AGAIN.

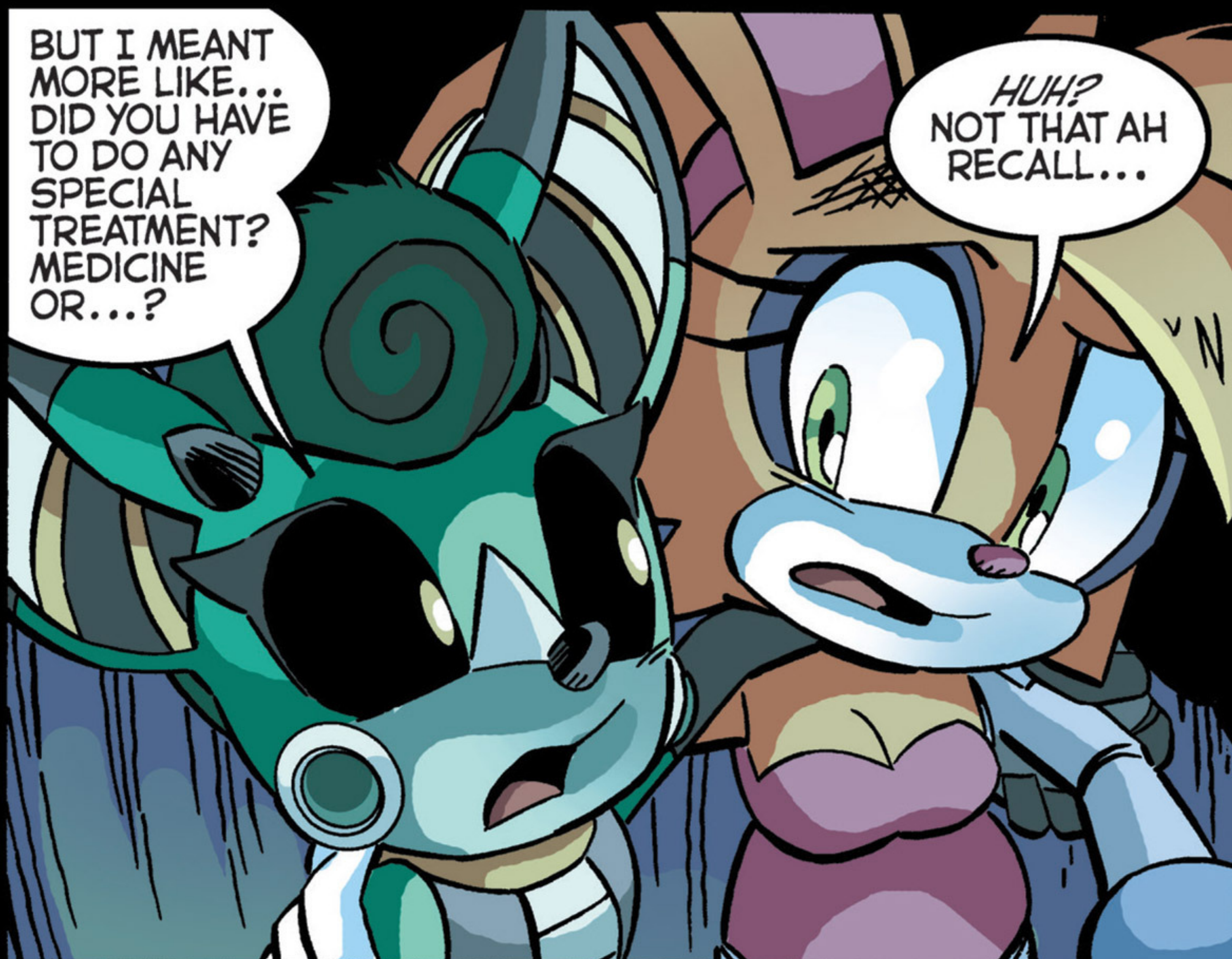
AH'M
JUST THANKFUL
AH HAD MAH
FRIENDS TO SEE
ME THROUGH
IT.



WHAT
ABOUT YOUR
FAMILY?

NO IDEA.
MAH FRIENDS
ARE MAH
FAMILY,
REALLY.

...OH.



BUT I MEANT
MORE LIKE...
DID YOU HAVE
TO DO ANY
SPECIAL
TREATMENT?
MEDICINE
OR...?

HUH?
NOT THAT AH
RECALL...

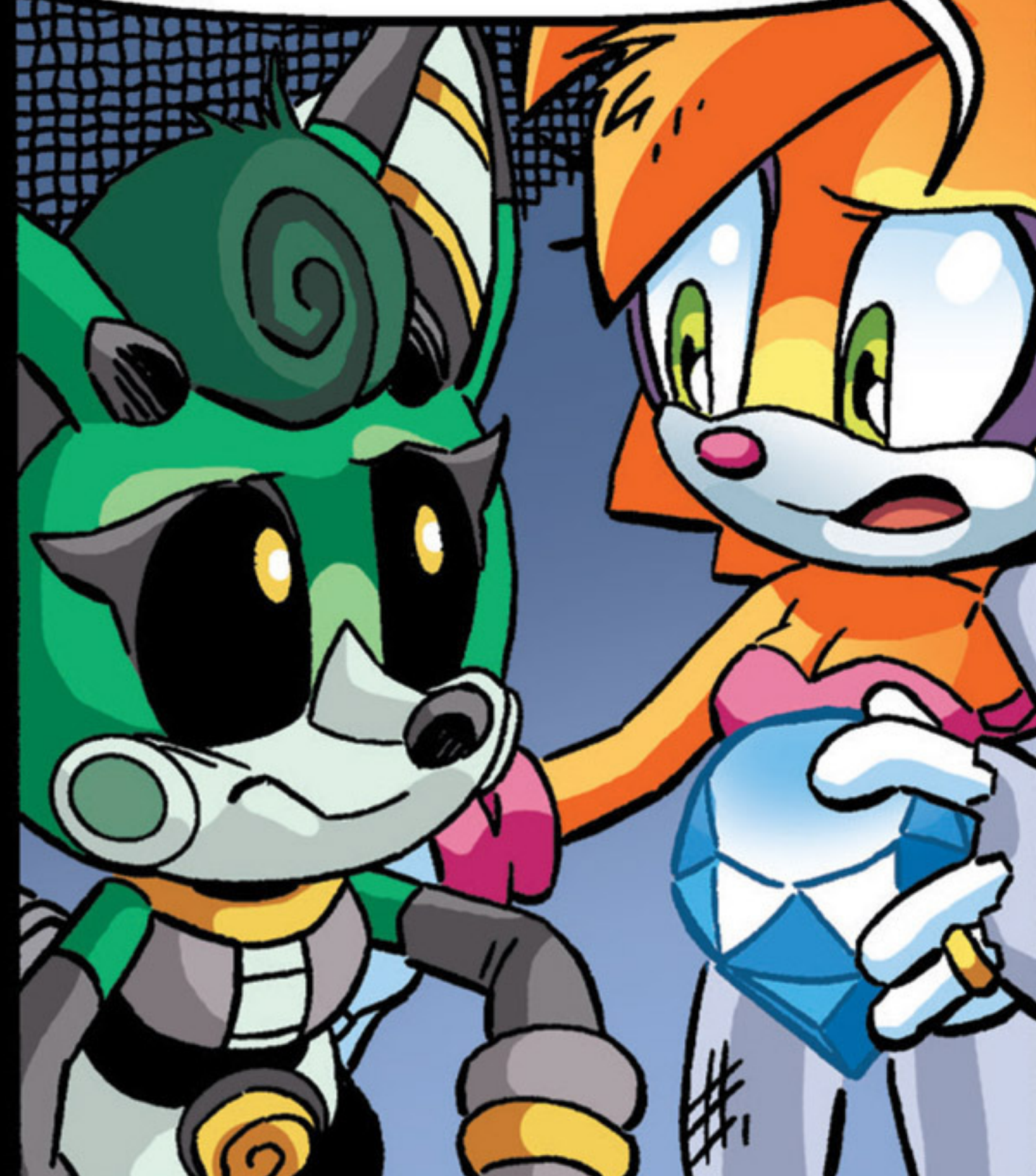
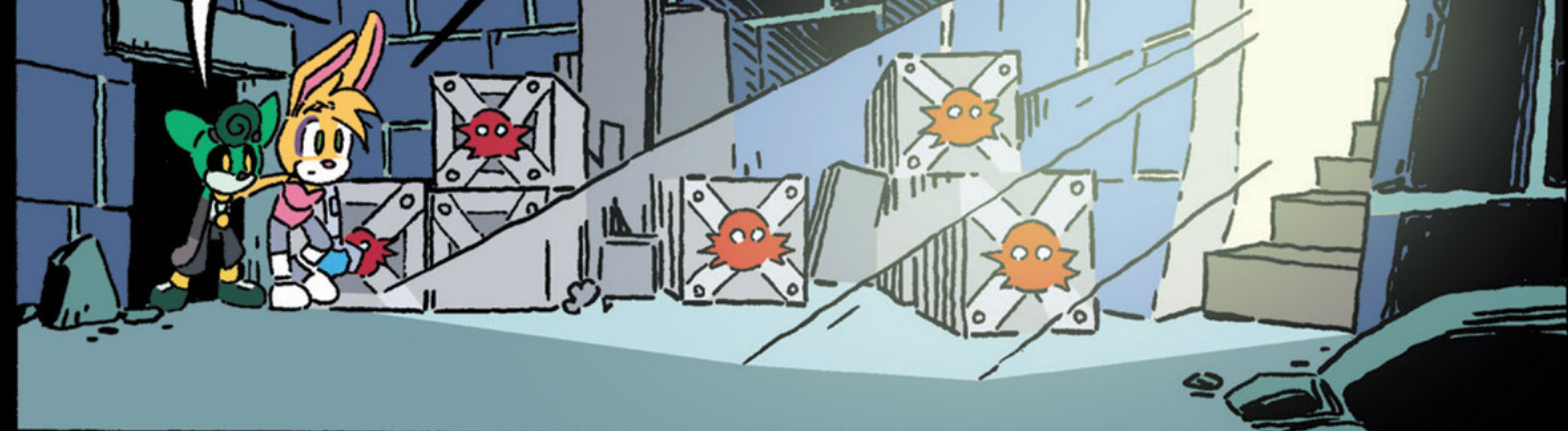


NO?
HEH...MY LUCK
REALLY IS
GARBAGE.

THIS IS ONE O' THOSE STORAGE ROOMS YOU MENTIONED?

YUP. I DUNNO WHICH PART OF THE GROUNDS THIS GOES TO, BUT IT'S A WAY OUT.

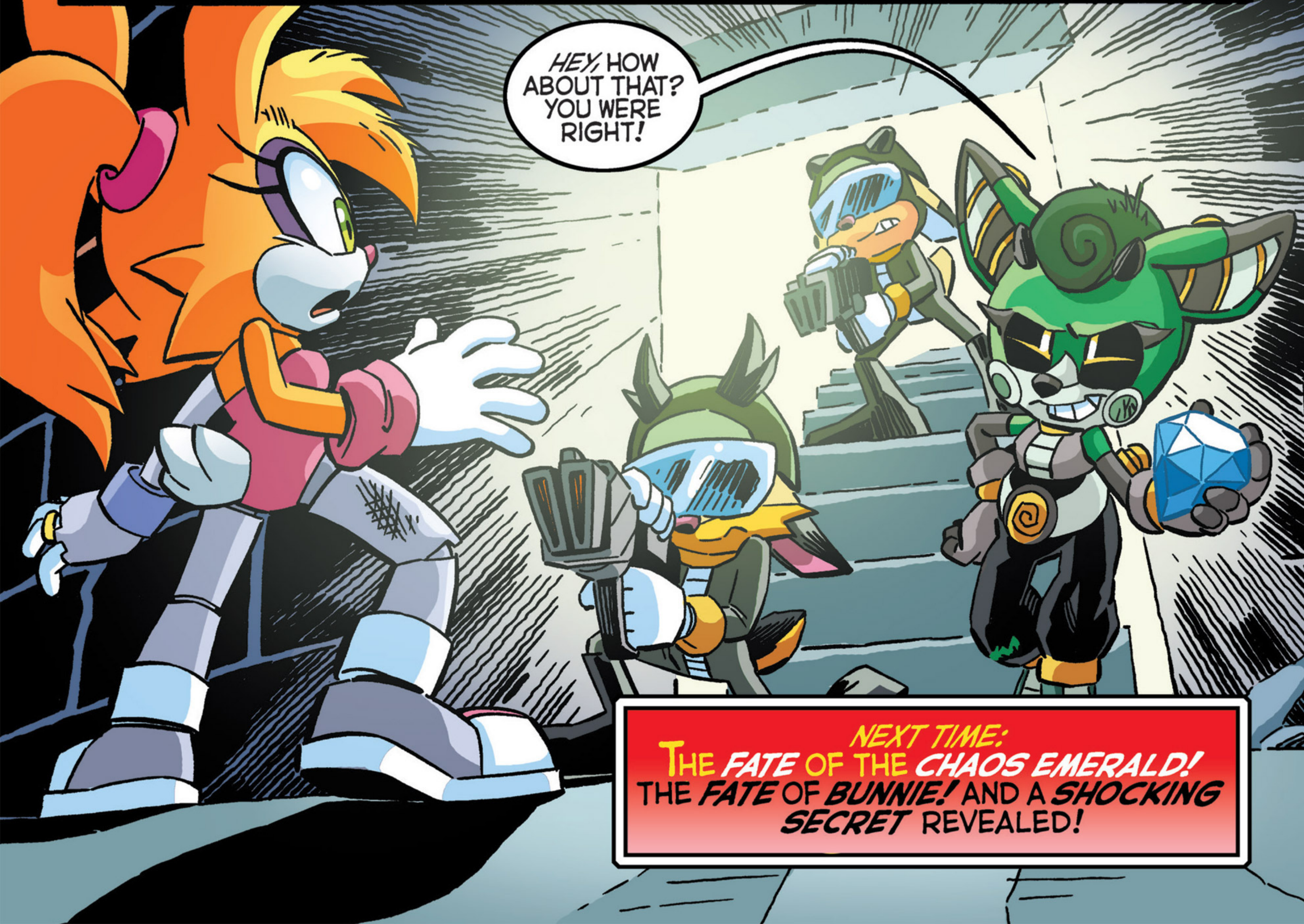
WELL, THEN, NO OFFENSE, BUT AH'M LEAVIN' YOU HERE. AH'M SURE SOMEONE'LL BE ALONG TO GET YOU SOON ENOUGH.



DON'T MOVE!



HEY, HOW ABOUT THAT? YOU WERE RIGHT!



NEXT TIME:
THE FATE OF THE CHAOS EMERALD!
THE FATE OF BUNNIE! AND A SHOCKING SECRET REVEALED!

Letter from **the EDITOR**

Editorial commentary that's been "spiked" with information!

Hey there, Sonic comic readers!

Hope you all enjoyed the double dose of **Freedom Fighters** this issue! What did everyone think of the newcomers **Spike**, **Sonar** and **Trevor**? We'd like to know, so please write in to **Sonic@ArchieComics.com** to tell us who is your favorite!

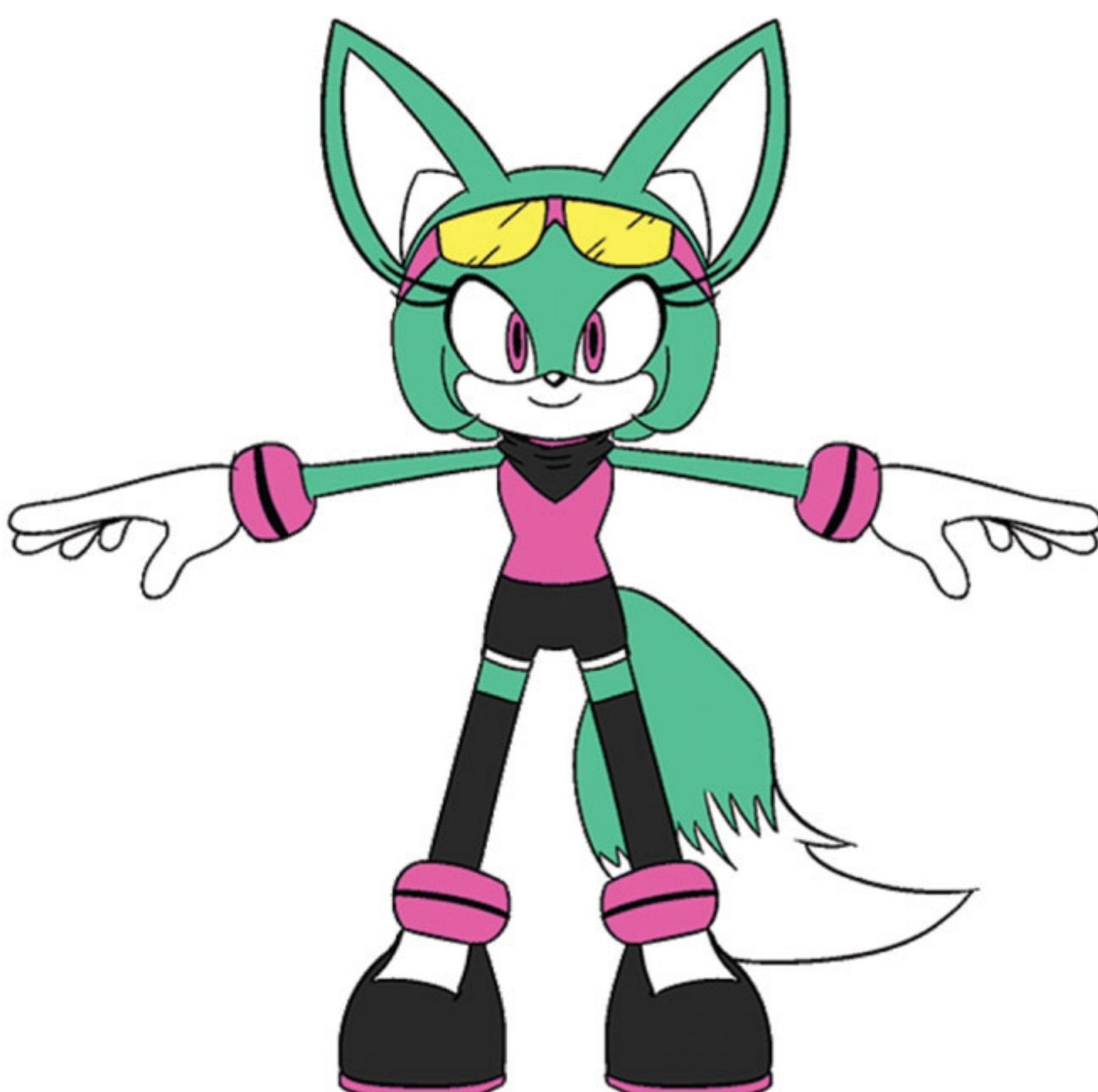
Sonic comic scribes **Ian Flynn** and **Aleah Baker** came up with the initial designs for these new Freedom Fighters with some fine-tuning done by yours truly! Check out the awesome production art below!

As many of you could probably guess, Spike, Sonar and Trevor are modeled after the trio of Sonic, Tails and Knuckles! Of course, each has their own unique abilities. Spike can spin like a whirlwind, Sonar can use her ultrasonic hearing to gather intel and Trevor can burrow underground for surprise attacks! Pretty cool, huh?

BELOW: Design concept for Spike the Porcupine.



BELOW: Design concept for Sonar the Fennec.



Well that's all for this segment! See y'all next time for more behind-the-scenes fun!

– Vincent "Vin" Lovallo
Editor

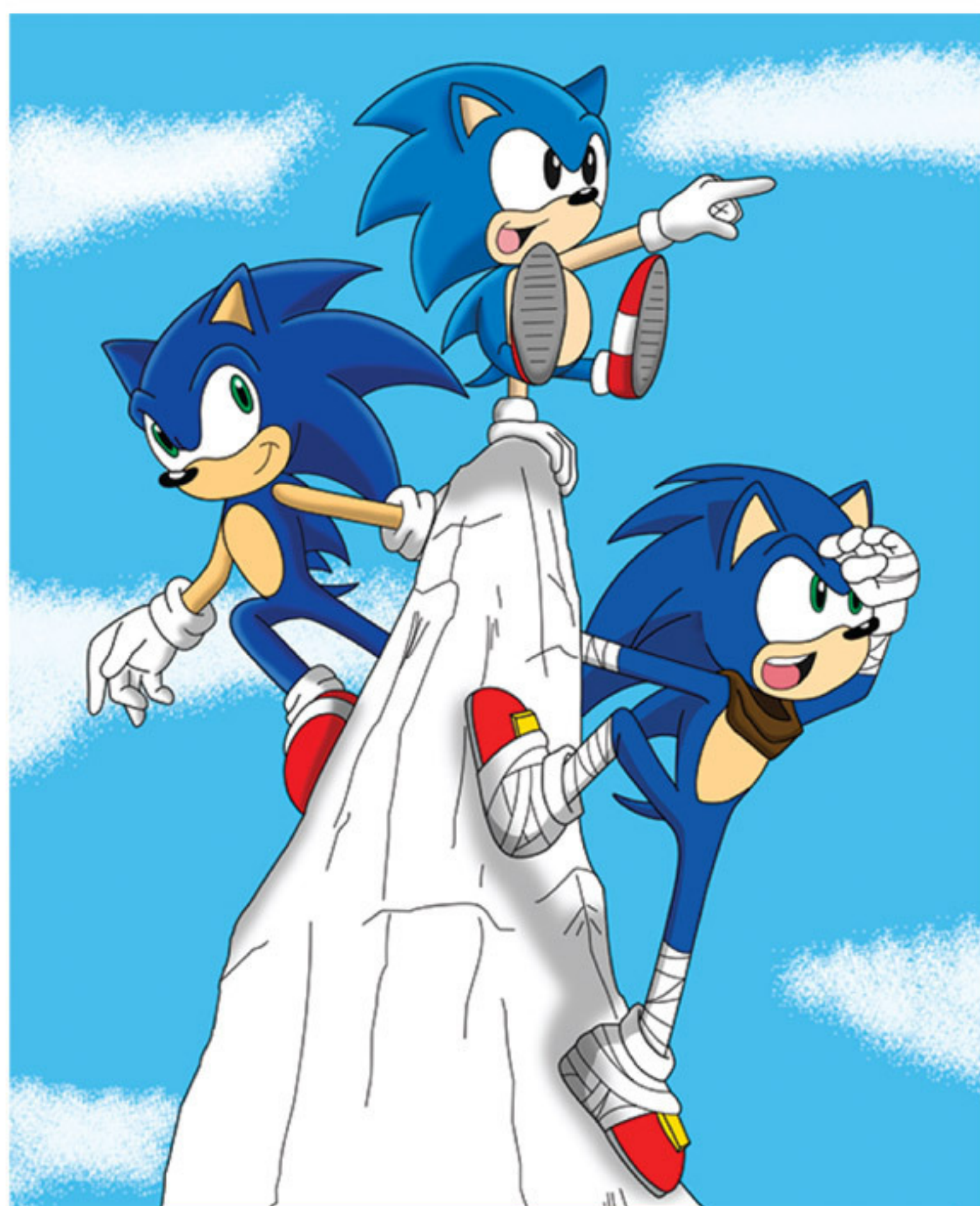
Vin
2015

BELOW: Design concept for Trevor Burrow the Mole.



SONIC GRAMS

FAN ART



Stephanie C.C. sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com

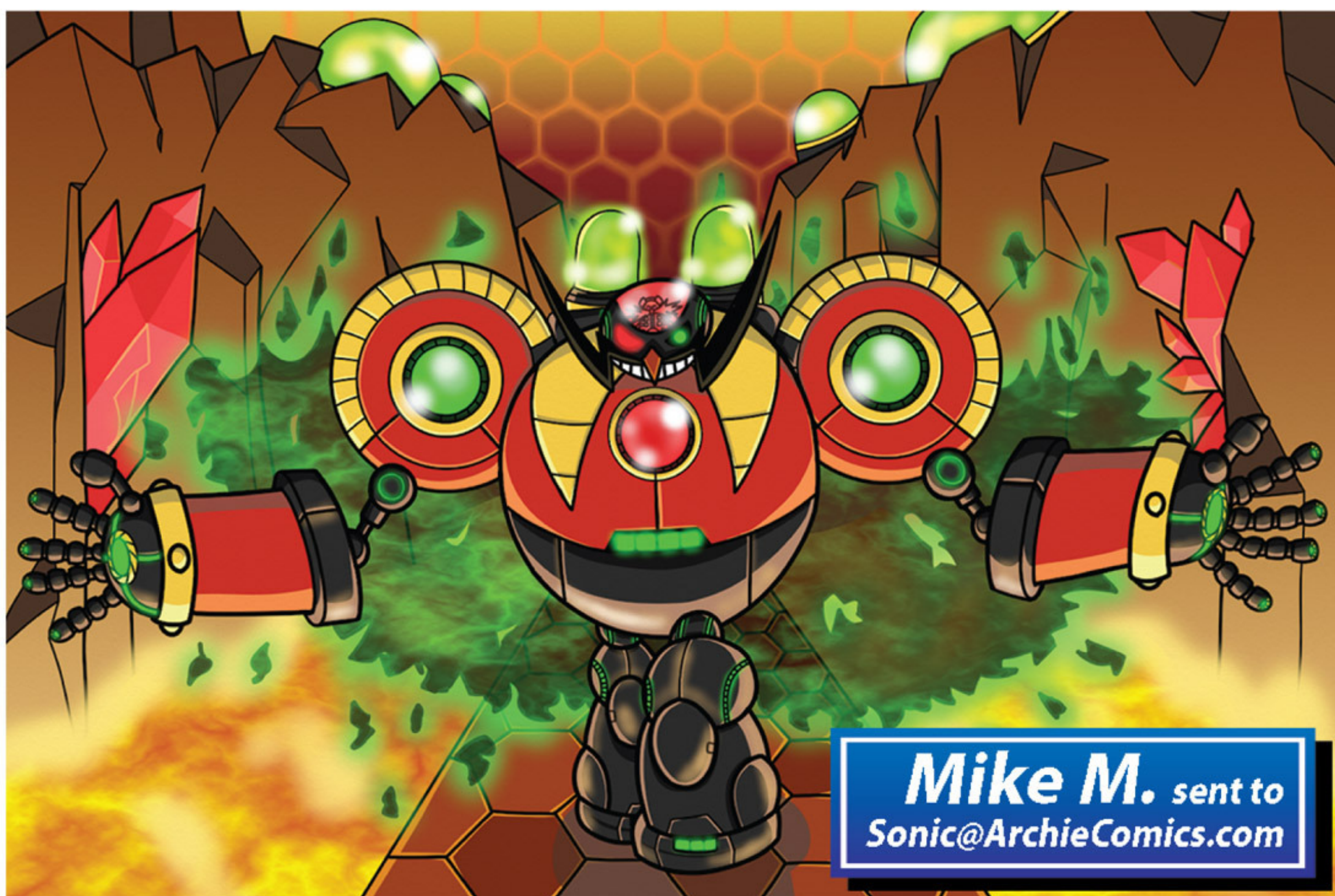
Mike J. sent to
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Teddy D. sent to
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John S.Z. sent to
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Mike M. sent to
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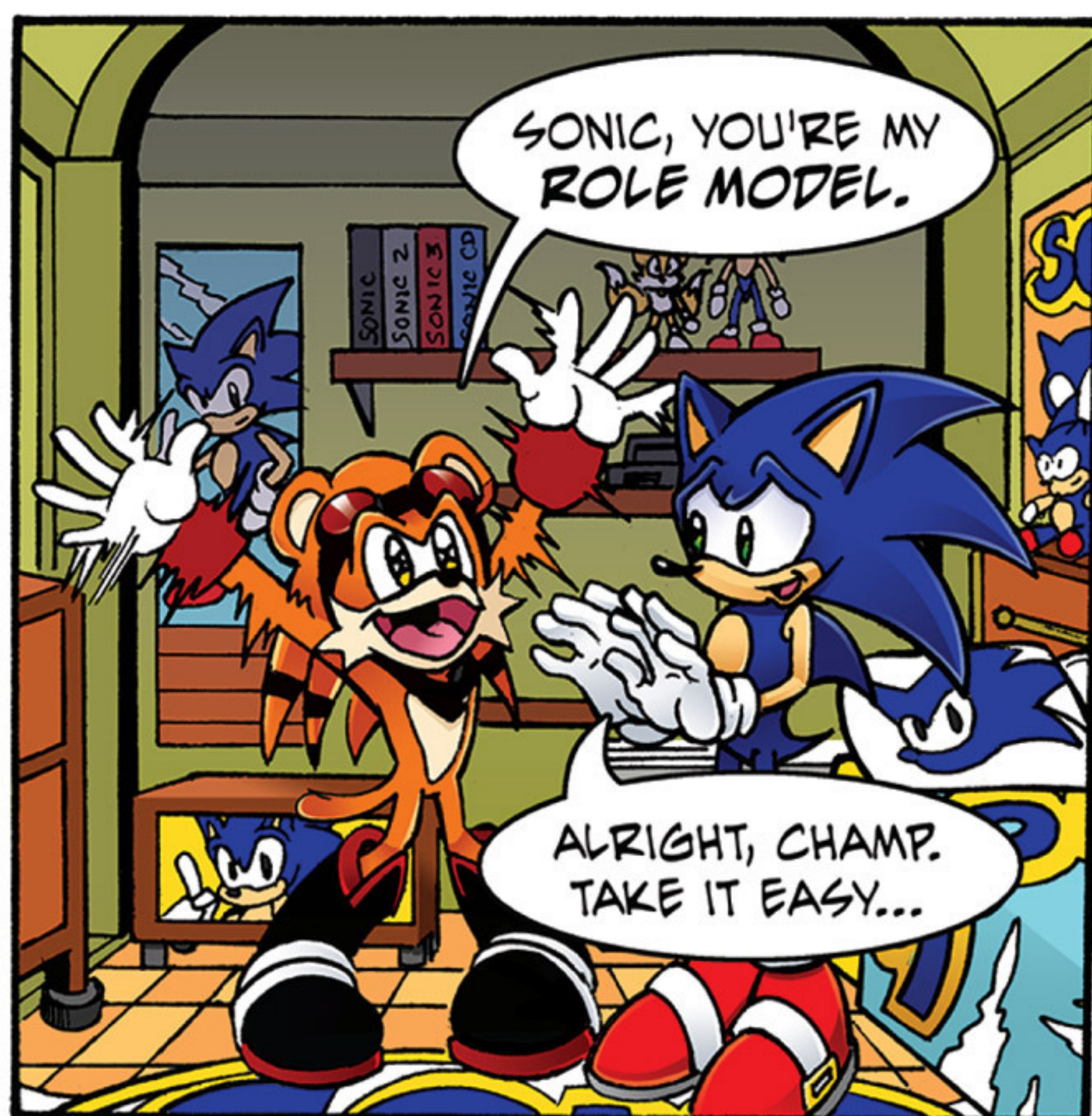


OFF PANEL

A HUMOROUS COMIC STRIP
FEATURING TWO SPINY,
ANTHROPOMORPHIC
CREATURES IN WHICH
A FUNNY JOKE IS MADE

OR

HEAVY METAL OVERDRIVE



SCRIPT: ERIC ESQUIVEL PENCILS: LAMAR WELLS INKS: RICK BRYANT COLORS: ALEAH BAKER



SONIC GRAMS

WRITE TO US @: SONIC GRAMS C/O
ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.
629 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 100
PELHAM, NY 10803-1242 E-MAIL:
SONIC@ARCHIECOMICS.COM
OR TWEET AT US USING #SONICGRAMS!

Dear 'Sonic Grams,'

Hi! My name is Nina and I'm possibly your biggest fan!

Hi, Nina! Nice to meet you!

I love your comics! This is my first time writing to you and I'm pretty excited! I've got some questions for you:

1. Will we be seeing any more of Captain Metal and the Egg o' War?

When we last saw the the Egg o' War (housing what was left of Cpt. Metal) it sat waterlogged, with a hole in its side at the bottom of the ocean in Blaze's world! Will it rise to ravage worlds again? You'll just have to wait and see!

2. Will Eclipse be back for revenge?

When we last saw Eclipse, he'd crash-landed a stolen G.U.N. cruiser into a swamp somewhere on the planet's surface! Will he return with his Dark Arms to eat the people of Sonic's world? You'll just have to wait and see!

3. What type of animal is Amy Rose?

When we last saw Amy Rose she was a hedgehog! Will she ever be anything other than a hedgehog? You'll just have to wait and (No. The answer is no.) see!

4. Can I be pleeeeeeeeeeeeeeease be Silver's #1 fan?

Nina P.
from Massachusetts

When we last saw Nina, I was answering her letter in the previous column! Will she ever be Silver's #1 fan? You'll just have to wait (Sure, OK.) and see!

Dear 'Sonic Grams,'

I've been a reader of the Sonic comics for a long time. I was very excited for your *Sonic the Fighters* adaptation! It's my favorite obscure Sonic game! My favorite character in the comics is Bean and I hope his crazy, wacky antics remain in this comic forever. I have one question though: Is the purple pufferfish girl from the "Champions" arc the royal daughter of King Puff and Queen Angelica from "Waves of Change"?

Seamus B. sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Waaait... do you mean the same purple pufferfish girl parading through Shamar Square who's carrying that weird magic rainy umbrella and also appears on page 7 of this very issue?!?!? @___@; ; ; ;

I dunno what you're talking about, Seamus, but thanks for the letter!

Dear 'Sonic Grams,'

Hi Guys! You are great! Tails you are my favorite. So on video game day for homecoming, I dressed up as you! Keep on running, Sonic! Keep punching things, Knuckles! Have fun, Amy! Good luck, Sticks! Tails, I hope you keep on being my favorite! Peace out!

Alex A. sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Peace out, Alex! That's cool that you

dressed up! Keep on keepin' on, friend!

Dear 'Sonic Grams,'

I just wanted to write you guys a quick (no pun intended) letter saying how much I LOVE your Sonic comics.

Well thanks so much! We LOVE hearing back from our awesome readers!

I became a Sonic fan on his 15th anniversary and I've stayed a devout fan ever since! The day I first met Sonic is probably one of my clearest memories. My Mom had gone to the pharmacy close to our home while I was watching TV. When she came back she gave me a surprise: A Sonic comic book! I was so excited as I delved into "His World"! My first book was *Sonic X* #20 and I read it everyday! (This is where I weep true blue tears.)

True blue tears is da best teases there is!

I started buying his games, watching his shows, buying his merch and, after I look back at all of this, I think, "Life's pretty sweet! I'll always love Sonic and will always support him because he's the most 'way past cool' character I know!" Keep on reaching for those stars, guys!

Stephen M. sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks for that heartfelt letter, Stephen! It warms our hearts to know that everything we do makes every Sonic fan, no matter who or where they are, a little bit happier!

And with that, we end this letter column! See you guys later!



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